C 3: 5 /C 2 3

carolina country

the monthly magazin ina's electric cooperatives

Volume 30, No.3, March 1998

#BXNGZPW xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx3-DIGIT 275
#04403000022935 48# ! 67
READING RM NC COLLECTION
READING RM NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

FINE *furniture*
MADE IN CAROLINA

The well-dressed electric cooperative lineworker - page 28

INSTANT WINDBREAK

IS WHAT THEY CALL AUSTREE® HYBRIDS!!

LOOK AT WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THIS VERSATILE TREE!

The AUSTREE® is perfect for:

- Windbreaks
- Noise Barriers
- Privacy Screens
- Hedges
- Wildlife Habitat
- Shade Trees
- Dust Barriers
- Erosion Control
- Landscaping
- Snow Fences

Just look at what our customers have to say about the Austree®...

"Our Austrees have grown over 10 feet in 3 months! We will have shade in our new development in no time. We definitely have the prettiest yard in five square miles thanks to our Austrees."
Thomas J., Statesville, NC

"We needed a dust barrier for the county road that runs in front of our house. Our Austrees are averaging almost 2 feet of growth per month!."
Al R., Mocksville, NC

"The Austrees are amazing and will fill our needs. We bought them to hide a trailer next door and they have grown more than 6 feet in 3 months! We are very happy."
Jack F., Elizabethtown, NC

THESE TREES CAN GROW UP TO 15 FEET PER YEAR!

WE SELL OUT OF TREES EVERY YEAR, ORDERS WILL BE FILLED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS!

THE AUSTREE® HYBRID IS THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER WINDBREAK AND PRIVACY TREE IN AMERICA!

CALL FOR A FREE 12 PAGE COLOR BROCHURE !

1-800-293-5230

DON'T WAIT - SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

NEW!
Three Colored Tree Varieties:
GOLD PANNER® • RAPID MERLOT®
KIOWA GIANT®

ROCKY MOUNTAIN AUSTREE Inc.

Visit us on the Internet at: http://www.rmausa.com

YES! Please send my FREE 12 page color AUSTREE® brochur

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

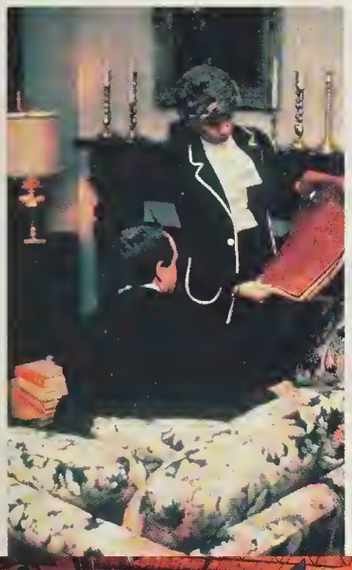
Telephone (_____) _____

Mail this coupon to:
Rocky Mountain Austree®, Inc.
P.O. Box 9307 • Colorado Springs, CO 80932

NCEA

Volume 30, No. 3, March 1998

carolina country



Features

A GUIDE TO FINDING FURNITURE IN NORTH CAROLINA 14
During the past 80 years, the furniture manufacturing industry recognized that North Carolina had everything it needed to thrive: the right natural resources, diligent craftspeople, and a compatible climatic and economic environment. Today we are known as "the furniture capital of the world." High Point is the hub, but the business of designing, making and selling furniture stretches throughout the Piedmont Triad and statewide. Susan H. Andrews, a High Point insider, has put together an introductory guide to finding furniture in our own backyard.

"THE FINEST FURNITURE I EVER FOUND" 18
Some of you are very attached to your furniture finds, even if it's not exactly furniture. Here are stories by seven readers in our continuing series called "Nothing Could Be Finer."

THE WELL-DRESSED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LINEWORKER 28
Electric co-op lineworkers put on 50 pounds when they dress for work. Tim Tippett of Brunswick EMC models the protective gear all line crews wear.

On the Cover
North Carolina furniture makers are known for their craftsmanship. Here are some tools of the craft as seen by High Point photographer John Mixon. © 1998 John D. Mixon

Departments

COMMENTARY 6
Doug Johnson, CEO of Blue Ridge Electric, gives recent examples of how co-ops are partners in their communities. Glenn English, CEO of our national association, stresses that true member service gives co-ops a competitive edge. Also, Billy Lindsay remembers writing a bad check to pay his electric bill, and Bobby Carpenter remembers Velma in Person County.

MORE POWER TO YOU 8
A new energy services provider, PrimePower, teams up with Cracker Barrel stores statewide. Plus, South River EMC and Lumbee River EMC help bring new jobs to their communities.

JOYNER'S CORNER 30
How Mamie got along so well with Ike . . . Can you get the March hare? . . . The environmentalist and the tree.

CAROLINA COMPASS 32
Events from March 1 to April 5.

MAKING CENTS OF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL 35
The new heat pumps.

MARKETPLACE 36-41
A showcase of goods and services.

HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE 42
The ginkgo biloba story.

JOURNAL 44
Do you know the difference between dating and going out?

CLASSIFIED ADS 45

CAROLINA KITCHEN 46
Cheese, please. Three recipes.

carolina *country*

(ISSN 0008-6746)
Read monthly in more
than 370,000 homes
Volume 30, No. 3, March 1998

Official Publication of
North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives
(800) 662-8835

North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 700,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The 28 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

Editor
Michael E.C. Gery, *ext.* 3062

Associate Editor
Kim Whorton, CREC, *ext.* 3134

Graphic Designer/Artist
Leisha L. Hodgson, *ext.* 3090

Contributing Editor
Owen Bishop, *ext.* 3034

Subscriptions
Jenny Lloyd, *ext.* 3091

Business Manager
Monica Russell, *ext.* 3110

Advertising Sales
Jennifer Boedart Hoey, *ext.* 3077

Member
Audit Bureau of Circulations

Carolina Country ® is published by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C., and additional mailing offices. Editorial offices: 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616. Phone: (800) 662-8835, ext. 3062. Carolina Country is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.
Individual subscriptions, $8 per year.
To change address, send magazine mailing label to your electric cooperative.

Printed on recycled paper

PRINTED WITH SOY INK

Advertising published in Carolina Country is accepted on the premise that the merchandise and services offered are accurately described and willingly sold to customers at the advertised price. The magazine, North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and the member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised. Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted. Should you encounter advertising that does not comply with these standards, please inform Carolina Country at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. (919) 875-3062

Carolina Country is available on cassette tape as a courtesy of volunteer services at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Raleigh, N.C. (800) 662-7726.

Do you receive Carolina Country? Has your address changed?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

We've Got Mobile Home Owners Covered.

Royal Home Improvement customers know what a new Royal Roofover means.

No More:
- Leaky roof
- Recoating your roof
- High energy bills
- Roof rumble

Instead You'll Have:
- Permanent roof
- Tripleseal protection
- Lower energy bills
- 25 year warranty
- Added value of home
- No more roof rumble
- All aluminum roof
- 100% financing
- Free estimates
- Shop at home service
- Single or double wide

Southeast's Largest Royal Roofover Dealer

Royal
Home Improvements, Inc.
Serving the entire Southeast

(800) 462-8039
100% Financing • Free Estimates
Shop at Home Service

Watering chores, water bills! Sweating behind a roaring mower! Spraying poison chemicals and digging weeds...

...you can end such lawn drudgery—here's how!

Amazoy is the Trade Mark registered U.S. Patent Office for our Meyer Zoysia Grass.

Mow your zoysia lawn once a month—or less! It rewards you with weed-free beauty all summer long.

⑦ Ways Your Zoysia Grass Lawn Saves You Time, Work, and Money!

① CUTS WATER BILLS AND MOWING AS MUCH AS 2/3

Would you believe a lawn could be perfect when watered just once? In Iowa, the state's biggest Men's Garden club picked a zoysia lawn as "top lawn—nearly perfect." Yet, this lawn had been watered only once all summer to August!

In PA, Mrs. M.R. Mitter wrote "I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in... Last summer we had it mowed 2 times... When everybody's lawns here are brown from drought, ours stays as green as ever." *That's how zoysia lawns cut water bills and mowing! Now read on!*

② ENDS RE-SEEDING NEVER NEEDS REPLACEMENT

Plug in our zoysia grass and you'll never have to spend money on grass seed again! Since you won't be buying seeds, you won't need to dig and rake—then hope the seeds take root before birds eat them or the next hard rain washes them away.

③ NO NEED TO DIG UP OLD GRASS

Plant Amazoy in old lawn, new ground, whatever. Set 1" square plugs into holes in the soil 1 foot apart, checkerboard style. Plugs spread to drive out old, unwanted growth, weeds included. Easy instructions with your order. If you can put a cork into a bottle, you can plug in Amazoy.

④ FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, AND BARE SPOTS

You can't beat Amazoy as the low cost answer for hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas, or to end erosion on slopes.

Endless Supply of Plug Transplants

Transplant plugs from established Amazoy as you desire—plugged area grows over to provide all the plugs you'll ever need.

FREE! Exclusive Step-on Plugger with orders of 600 plugs or more.

Starting your lawn is easy with this sturdy, 2-way plugger. Cuts away unwanted growth as it digs holes for plugs. Saves bending, time, work. Invaluable transplant tool.

©Zoysia Farm Nurseries 1998
3617 Old Taneytown Rd., Taneytown, MD 21787

⑤ IT STAYS GREEN IN SPITE OF HEAT AND DROUGHT

"The hotter it gets, the better it grows!" Plug-in zoysia thrives in blistering heat, yet it won't winter kill to 30° below zero. It just goes off its green color after killing frosts, begins regaining its green color as temps. in the spring are consistently warm. Of course, this varies with climate.

⑥ NO NEED TO SPEND MONEY ON DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

Since zoysia lawns resist insects AND diseases, you avoid the risk of exposing your family or pets to weedkillers and pesticide poisons. Plug in Amazoy and save the money, avoid the risks!

Meyer Zoysia Grass was perfected by U.S. Govt., released in cooperation with U.S. Golf Association as a superior grass.

Thrives from part shade to full sun.

Every Plug GUARANTEED TO GROW IN YOUR SOIL *No Ifs, Ands or Buts!*

Read a guarantee no grass seed can match!

Won't Winter Kill. Amazoy has survived temperatures to 30° below zero!

Won't Heat Kill. When other grasses burn out in summer drought and heat, Amazoy remains luxuriously green.

Any plug failing to grow in 45 days will be replaced FREE! To insure maximum freshness and viability, plugs are shipped not cut all the way through. Before planting, finish the separation with shears or knife. Our guarantee and planting method are your assurance of lawn success backed by more than four decades of specialized lawn experience!

We ship all orders the same day plugs are packed at *earliest correct planting time in your area.*

NOT SHIPPED OUTSIDE USA, or into WA or OR.

⑦ CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS AND WEEDS ALL SUMMER

Your established Amazoy lawn grows so thick, it simply stops crabgrass and summer weeds from germinating!

ORDER NOW!

AND GET UP TO

700 PLUGS FREE!

TO: Zoysia Farm Nurseries, Dept. 649
General Offices and Store
3617 Old Taneytown Road
Taneytown, MD 21787

Please send me guaranteed Amazoy as checked:

☐ 50 PLUGS	☐ 100 PLUGS +10 FREE	☐ 100 PLUGS +20 FREE with Plugger	☐ 300 PLUGS +30 FREE with Plugger
$5.95 + $3.15 S&H	$9.95 + $3.95 S&H	$14.95 + $4.35 S&H	$21.95 + $5.05 S&H

☐ 600 PLUGS +60 FREE with FREE Plugger	☐ 1,000 PLUGS +350 FREE with FREE Plugger	SPECIAL OFFER! ☐ 2,000 PLUGS + 700 FREE with FREE Plugger
ONLY $29.95 + $8.70 S&H	ONLY $49.95 + $12.85 S&H	ONLY $76.95 + $19.30 S&H

☐ Additional Plugger $6.95

Write price of order here $_____.____
MD residents add 5% tax $_____.____
Shipping & handling (S&H) $_____.____
TOTAL $_____.____

I enclose $_____ ❑ Check ❑ MO
Charge credit card ❑ MasterCard ❑ VISA

Acct. #_____
Expiration Date _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE ZIP

Commentary

Mail: P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611-7306
Phone: (800) 662-8835, ext. 3062
Fax: (919) 878-3970
E-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com
Website: www.ncemcs.com

Cooperatives are partners for your community

By Doug Johnson

Competition for recruiting new industry is stiff. It requires a significant investment of time and resources, which sometimes makes it difficult for rural communities to be successful.

Blue Ridge Electric is proud to be a partner in making our hometowns better places to work and live. Recently, we worked with leaders in Ashe County to recruit a new industry and to retain an existing 20-year-old manufacturing facility.

Through a partnership with Ashe County Job Development, Inc., Blue Ridge Electric arranged for a seven-year, $500,000 zero-interest loan to help the Oldham Company build a $2 million facility. When completed this manufacturer of router bits and saw blades will initially employ 300 people and grow to 400 within two years.

Just as this exciting news was announced, we learned that Gates Rubber Company had plans to shift their production resources from hoses to belts. This change could have caused the company's Jefferson plant to close, taking with them some 400 jobs.

Through quick, responsive efforts of state and local leaders and the cooperative's industrial development staff, the Job Development team put together an incentive package that led Gates to choose the Jefferson facility for their belt plant expansion.

As your local hometown utility, cooperatives are committed to every community we serve and will continue to invest time and resources into economic development efforts such as these.

It's a good feeling to be involved in the community and help bring jobs for our members. A strong economic base enables the folks who live here to provide for their family's needs, support local businesses, and help the overall economy to thrive.

Along with the electric cooperatives throughout North Carolina, we will continue providing our customers with competitive rates, exceptional customer service, and a strong commitment to local people.

I congratulate all the Blue Ridge Electric employees and our Ashe County partners who worked so hard to make these successes possible in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Doug Johnson is chief executive officer of Blue Ridge Electric. The cooperative serves 47,000 members in Ashe, Alleghany, Alexander, Avery, Caldwell, Watauga and Wilkes counties.

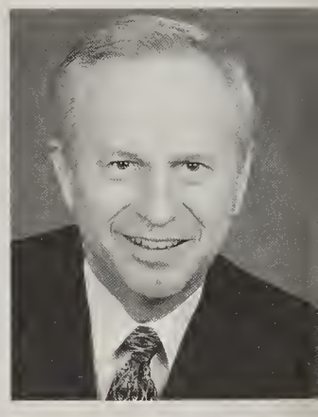
Consumers come first

By Glenn English

No one knows what is best for a local community more than the men and women who live and work in that community. Your friends and neighbors at your local electric cooperative have a strong history of working as your partners in bringing jobs and opportunity to your community.

A little more than a year ago, a few big corporations began a massive advertising campaign to change the electric utility industry. By some accounts they have spent hundreds of millions of dollars pushing their positions in state capitals and in Washington, D.C. At the same time, many of these companies have been closing local service offices making it harder for their customers to do business with them.

Your local co-op, however, is always looking for opportunities to improve the level of service we provide, and your voice in telling us about how we are doing is very important.



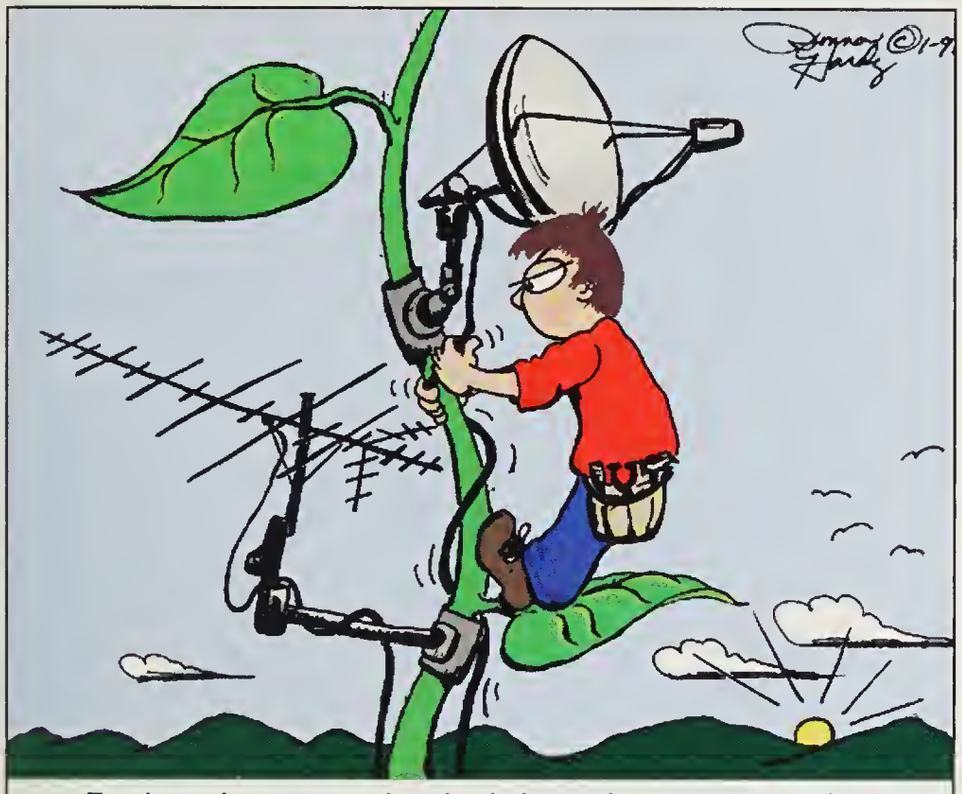
We are in business to serve you. Our rules are simple: What is best for the customer is best for us; what hurts the customer hurts us. To that end, we're committed to fighting for what helps the consumer and against what hurts the consumer.

Our history of working for the best interests of consumers puts us in a unique position as electric utilities. No other utility can claim the remarkable record of consumer advocacy that we can. No other utility company can count as major partners, the businesses we sell energy to, the labor unions that our employees belong to or the consumer advocacy groups that work alongside us. No other utility can claim the high level of customer satisfaction and loyalty that we can.

While our commitment to current consumers remains as strong as ever, electric cooperatives are also committed to helping others gain the benefits of electric cooperative service as well. We are working for changes to the law that makes that easier. Our work in places as diverse as New York City and California is based on the knowledge that consumers in any part of the country can benefit from having their own, locally controlled electric cooperative to either provide or purchase energy services for them.

The strongest competitive advantage electric cooperatives have is that we have a special consumer advocacy position in the utility industry. Our competitors have no claim on our ability to represent consumer interests as well as electric cooperatives can. Our vision for the future is one that puts you, the consumer, at the top of our list of priorities. In the future, new rules will be written that will let us provide an even greater level of service to you. We're working hard to get to that day and looking forward to the opportunities it presents.

Glenn English is chief executive officer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The association represents 1,000 cooperatives that serve 30 million consumers in 46 states.



Finding the goose that laid the golden egg wasn't the only reason Jack climbed the beanstalk that day.

Paying electric bills in the 1960s

Billy Lindsay of Rocky Mount was one of the 257 people who submitted correct answers to Charles Joyner's "Merry Christmas" math puzzle. While Billy's entry was not the one drawn at random for the $25 prize [Joyner's Corner, February 1997], a letter accompanied it.

The answer to the puzzle was the number 52. Billy Lindsay wrote, "Christmas is worth being nice 52 weeks out of the year. . . . Your magazine always gives me a feeling of nostalgia for the 1960s. Years ago I wrote a bad check to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, because the bank had mishandled a deposit I had made. EMC-EMC sent an agent out to collect payment and return my check. The agent stopped by the local grocery store, where my good friend and the store's owner James Holloman made my check good, and the EMC agent was on his way. On my next visit to the store, I repaid James."

Veterans go for stickers

Your fine magazine ran a write-up about the window stickers we make for U.S. veterans [Carolina Close-Up, January 1997]. We appreciate this and apparently North Carolina veterans do, too, because we've heard from a lot of them.

I thought I knew a lot about North Carolina, having spent many wonderful vacations in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina and at the beaches of Nags Head and Ocracoke. I was an avid golfer and spent considerable time at Pinehurst, Clemmons and several of the fine mountain courses. But I must tell you we've heard from veterans in towns that I did not know of: Macon, Vale, Spindale, Harrisburg, Roaring Gap, Waxhaw, Seagrove, to name a few.

The veterans and their families were really pleased with the presentation in the magazine.

Bob Kline
Box 382
Blue Bell, Pa. 19422

More on Mrs. Moore

Can you print one more letter about Velma Beam Moore? ["The Mother of Modern Clay County," September 1997]. Mrs. Moore was born in western Lincoln County in the Bess Chapel community shortly after the turn of the century. She was the daughter of John Cephas Beam and Dora Elizabeth Baxter. She was a first cousin of my grandmother, Gaddie Lee Harrelson Carpenter.

I corresponded with Mrs. Moore about our ancestors: Beams, Baxters and Leonhardts. Four or five years ago while on a trip to Murphy, my wife and I stopped by her home for a visit. She told about being the Home Demonstration agent in Person County and being offered the job in Clay County. It was a joint venture with the federal and state government. She asked the man if she could let him know her decision about Clay County the next day. He agreed. Mrs. Moore was single at the time, and her mother lived with her. That night Mrs. Moore asked her mother if she would like to move to the mountains. Dora Baxter Beam responded that she had always wanted to live in the mountains. Mrs. Moore did move to Clay County, and the rest is history.

When we visited her, Mrs. Moore was delighted to see relatives from her home in Lincoln County. She grasped my arm and led me inside and introduced me to her husband by saying, "These are my relatives. You leave us alone while I visit with them." She explained that mostly they always had his relatives for visits.

We enjoyed hearing about her life in Clay County. She very graciously offered us a big slice of homemade cake and coffee.

We became members of Blue Ridge EMC in Avery County during the summer of 1997. The article about Mrs. Moore was in the first issue we received. We enjoy your magazine very much.

Bobby S. Carpenter
Cherryville

PrimePower provides analysis services for Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores statewide

The wholesale power supplier for North Carolina's electric cooperatives — North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) – has formed a new division to help businesses served by other power companies save money on their electric bills. Known as PrimePower, the new NCEMC division offers energy services to commercial and industrial customers.

In its first venture, PrimePower will monitor and analyze energy use at 21 Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores in North Carolina. The program will enable the stores and cooperative employees to monitor both on-site and remotely Cracker Barrel's energy usage and make recommendations for energy savings.

PrimePower will also consolidate Cracker Barrel's electric billing for all stores within North Carolina. This service will assure accuracy of billing, reduce administrative costs, and provide important analysis of energy consumption.

Chuck Terrill, executive vice president and chief executive officer of NCEMC said, "Our goal is to work with businesses to help them get maximum benefits from energy dollars. We're talking about overall efficiency and the bottom line. It is that simple."

"We received a number of proposals from firms across the country," said DeAnna Fry, environmental affairs manager for Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores, Inc. "The one from NCEMC was by far the most creative and offered us the most options."

She added that "Cracker Barrel is optimistic that the energy services monitoring and bill consolidation provided by PrimePower will help us streamline our energy use, make our operations more efficient, and make us even more competitive in the restaurant industry."

Based in Lebanon, Tenn., Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores, Inc. operates 325 restaurants with retail stores in 33 states in every region of the country. Said Fry, "We will be watching this pilot program very closely with consideration toward expanding into other markets if successful."

Working with PrimePower on the project is the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, a national trade organization for electric cooperatives.

On the front porch last January, Cracker Barrel's DeAnna Fry (right) discussed PrimePower services with Chuck Terrill, CEO of NCEMC.

PrimePower's range of energy services

- Power quality analysis in which engineers and consultants identify actual or potential sources of power problems, such as lighting, sags and surges. If new equipment is needed, PrimePower can specify, provide and install uninterruptible power supplies, mitigation equipment, and stand-by generators.
- Lighting analysis and retrofits to provide more efficient lighting, lower energy and maintenance costs, and compliance with workplace standards.
- Energy audits to cover all energy systems.
- Load monitoring, including equipment and software to understand and regulate energy use.
- Motor services, in which motors (which consume 75 percent of all energy used by industry) are tested for efficiency.
- Process technology services to analyze current operations and test and recommend alternative heating, drying, coating and curing methods.
- Bill audit and consolidation to determine accuracy of statements, provide combined payments, and offer useful information on energy consumption.

For more information contact Jem Brown, (919) 875-3041 or jem.brown@ncemcs.com.

Web site focuses on change among electric utilities

The Consumer Energy Council of America Research Foundation maintains a site on the World Wide Web dedicated to a discussion of restructuring in the electric utility industry.

Formed in 1973, the public interest organization describes itself as "the nation's oldest energy policy organization focusing on consumers."

Its Web site looks at the restructuring of the electric utility industry from the standpoint of its impact on small business and residential consumers. The Web site is intended to serve as an information and discussion resource. It includes a confidential consumer survey asking questions on issues pertaining to change in the industry.

The Internet address is www.cecarf.org

The research foundation is at 2000 L St. NW, Suite 802, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: (202) 659-0404.

74% of electric co-ops' capital funding comes from private sources

In decades past electric cooperatives financed their capital improvements exclusively through loans from the federal government. Today, electric co-ops get 74 percent of their capital financing through non-governmental sources, including internally generated funds and private financing.

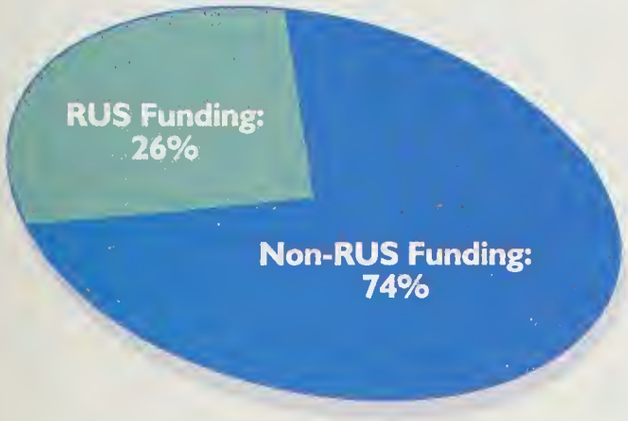
Only 26 percent of funds obtained by co-ops for serving new customers and making system improvements come from the Rural Utilities Service or RUS (formerly known as the REA or Rural Electrification Administration), which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Capital improvements at electric co-ops include upgrading or building generation and transmission facilities, as well as distribution lines and systems.

According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, electric co-ops are borrowing less each year from RUS. In 1988 electric co-ops as a group borrowed 34 percent of their capital improvement funds from RUS.

However, it is important to note that smaller, more rural electric co-ops tend to get a larger percentage of their funding from RUS. In fact, about 85 percent of all electric co-ops still get some funding from RUS.

The majority of non-RUS financing is through the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). CFC was formed by electric co-ops to provide private-market financing for rural utility systems. As a cooperatively owned financing arm, CFC is owned by its member-borrowers. In turn, CFC raises funds in the capital markets.

> "We are a hometown electric company. The more industry we can help locate in our area the better off the entire community will be in terms of jobs, increased tax revenues and overall quality of life."
>
> *Buddy G. Creed*
> *General Manager*
> *South River* EMC



Source: NRECA Strategic Analysis Unit

Sources of electric co-ops' capital financing nationwide, 1997. (RUS is the U.S. Rural Utilities Service.)

Manufacturers and their employees benefit from EMC financing

Two North Carolina electric cooperatives recently showed their abiding interest in local jobs by obtaining loans for employers in their communities.

Lumbee River EMC in Red Springs received a $750,000 loan for economic development in Robeson County, and South River EMC received a similar $500,000 for a Benson manufacturer.

Robeson County manufacturer

Lumbee River EMC's award is a zero-interest, pass-through loan obtained through the Rural Utilities Service economic development program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The co-op submitted its request on behalf of Parker Manufacturing, Inc. and the citizens of Robeson County and surrounding areas.

The loan will provide start-up funding to Parker Manufacturing to construct a facility to build state-of-the-art manufactured homes. The loan will fund the purchase of machinery and computerized design equipment to be housed in a 145,000 square-foot manufacturing facility east of Pembroke.

Officials expect the new facility will bring with it 250 skilled jobs within two years of completion.

Lumbee River EMC serves more than 37,000 consumer-members in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland and Scotland counties. For more information, contact Randall Jones, the EMC's director of commercial and industrial retention, at (910) 843-4131.

Benson duct maker

South River EMC in Dunn handed officials from The Hamlin Companies a check for half a million dollars to help equip their new facility.

Hamlin, a manufacturer of spiral and rectangular metal duct systems, is locating a new facility in the Benson Industrial Park at the intersection of I-95 and NC 50. This facility will receive its electric service from South River EMC and is the first commercial tenant of the newly developed industrial park. Hamlin is currently conducting all operations from a facility in Garner where it employs 250 people. The new building will be 70,000 square feet and will double the company's production capabilities.

According to Bill Hamlin, president, the company hopes to add a 30,000 square-foot addition later. Hamlin stated they are working with the Employment Security Commissions in Harnett and Johnston counties to fill 15 newly created positions. He added they hope to add another 20 positions within a year and later operate a second shift which would require 30 more people.

"We are a hometown electric company," said Buddy G. Creed, general manager, South River EMC. "We have appointed ourselves as advocates for our communities in growth and prosperity. The more industry we can help locate in our area the better off the entire community will be in terms of jobs, increased tax revenues and overall quality of life."

South River EMC provides electric service for over 34,000 member-consumers in Sampson, Harnett, Cumberland, Johnston and Bladen counties.

You can afford your own pool!

At Neptune Pools, we believe a quality pool should be within everyone's budge

Includes deck, steps, filter and liner.

You'll also receive a FREE Polaris automatic pool vacuum when you purchase an aluminum pool.

So, call today for a free yar survey and information on all our pools and decks. And take a vacation this summer without leaving your own backyard!

1/2 price installation

on any aluminum pool purchased in March!

- Financing available
- Full installation and service department
- Standard and custom decks

Call 1-800-323-7946 *Monday - Saturday 9 am - 9 pm* JACUZ

NEPTUNE POOLS, Inc. *Serving the Southeast with quality pools for over a decade*

** 12' x 24' oval (not pictured) ** Prior sales excluded - not valid with any other offer. Ad must be presented at time of sale*

Installation and yard survey available in most areas - call to see if your homesite qualifies!

You never know when you might need extra money. . . .

We know how to help you get it.

If you're a homeowner, help is just a phone call away.

We can show you how to refinance all those high-rate bills to one new, *lower* payment with a bill consolidation loan -- even if your credit is less than perfect!

Look how low your total monthly payment could be: *

$25,000 . . . . . $183.27
$35,000 . . . . . $256.57
$45,000 . . . . . $329.88

Payments based on 360 mo. @7.99%/8.38 APR. Subject to credit - rates subject to change.

We have loan programs for:

- Self-employed / unable to verify income
- Bankruptcy / poor credit
- Doublewide homes

Call today -- apply by phone: 1-800-365-9017

The Mortgage Outlet, Inc.

Multi-State Mortgage Licensee • 1220-D Kennestone Cir., Marietta, GA

An Important Announcement to North Carolina Homeowners with Equity . . . .

What Would You Do With An Extra $3,600 to $12,000 per year?

How to Get a Fast Mortgage Loan To Pay Off All Your Bills**

(Even If You've Been Turned Down By A Bank Or Mortgage Company)

Rockingham, N.C. - Ray and Becky were frustrated. They'd bought the house 12 years ago and it was five years old when they moved in. Becky laughed out loud when she thought back to that time. Back then it seemed so big and beautiful. But now, 12 years and 3 kids later, the house felt small and run down. The house needed a new roof and her two youngest girls, Emily and Katie, were doubling up in the small 10 x 12 bedroom.

Five years ago, Ray and Becky had a contractor come and talk to them about a new addition. Becky remembered how excited she and Ray both were. They even paid to have the plans drawn up. But that was the year before Ray lost his job at the plant. She poured herself another cup of coffee and recalled how depressed they both were. It was over a year before he got another job. And during that time, they got behind on everything.

No Summer Vacation

They were so strapped for money one summer, they couldn't even take Emily and Katie to the beach for a few days for their annual vacation. Sure they finally got all caught up when Ray went back to work, it took them two years and by that time it had ruined their previously perfect credit record, it was a vicious cycle. You know, getting paid on Friday, sitting down on Saturday to pay bills and running out of money before all the bills are paid.

"I Hit A Brick Wall"

After they got caught up they tried again to borrow the money for the addition. First they got turned down by the local bank, then a mortgage company in town rejected them. They just kept hitting the same brick wall. Even though Ray had gone back to work in another carpet mill making MORE money, the late payments that showed up on his credit reports scared the local banks and mortgage companies away. Ray felt like he was working JUST to pay his monthly bills and doing nothing for himself, Becky or the kids. Then he ran into Harvest Mortgage Company. Harvest helped him get a loan to pay off all his bills and consolidate everything into one single payment that was $358 lower than he had been making. That saved him a whopping $4,296 per year, TAX FREE. In the first year, that was enough money to close in the back porch, AND enough left over for new bikes for the kids.

Home Equity is the Key

Carole Eskew, Sr., V.P.

"If you have a minimum of 20% equity or more, there's a good chance we can help you save a lot of money every month by combining old bills and your old mortgage into one new and much lower payment. Or, we can help you get cash out of your home to buy a vacation home, start a business, whatever."

Compare your budget to this:

Amt.	Owed	Payment
$12,000	2nd Mortgage	$200.00
8,500	Auto Loan	375.00
2,000	VISA	100.00
2,000	MasterCard	100.00
$25,000	**Current Payment**	**$775.00**

-After Harvest Mortgage -

New Payment: $187.82/mo.

APR 9.077% / 30 yr. term

You Save: $587.18/mo., $7,046.16/yr.

** Rates subject to change*

"I couldn't believe it. We closed our loan 9 days after the first day I talked to them on the phone."

Debbie C., Dallas

"We ended up paying off all our bills and rolling them all into one single payment. After we did, our total monthly payments dropped by almost $400 per month."

Billy and Judy., Columbus

"Thanks to you and your great company, we feel reborn. Words can not express the relief we feel. We are so glad this battle with the bills is almost over."

James and Laurie C.

Recent Loans Include:

- A $45,000 loan to a borrower in bankruptcy.
- A $100,000 loan to a borrower who couldn't verify income through tax returns.
- A $95,000 bill-consolidation loan that saved the borrower over $8,100 per year and a whopping $124,000 over the loan period.

(No singlewides, please)

No Ivory Towers

"When you apply for a loan at Harvest Mortgage, your loan request is reviewed and decided upon by the people right in our office," says Harvest executive. He added, "Since we are direct lenders, we don't send the information to some guys off somewhere in New York or California. We review and approve loans right here in town locally."

Fast Approval and Closing

That means we can get your loan closed in a matter of days, and you never have to go out of your living room until you're ready to close.

Loan For Purchase or Refinance

Harvest Mortgage officials report that whether you are buying, refinancing a house, just looking to consolidate some bills, get cash from your property, they have created programs to give you the money you're looking for. Different loan programs include:

- Loans to Borrowers with good credit, with the most competitive rates in the country. These are available for purchasing a new home or refinancing.
- Loans to borrowers with a lot of equity in homeowners who have slow credit or have even been bankrupt.
- Cash out loans for investment property with a lot of equity.
- Loans for borrowers who want to do additions or remodel their homes.

Check This Out For Free

To see how much money you may be able to get and exactly how much your payments would be, you can check it out by just picking up the phone and calling us. Be sure to ask for Carolyn Rose at **1-800-972-LEND (5363)**. Or for a **FREE** report on **HOW Harvest Mortgage** can work for you, call toll-free **1-888-697-LOAN (5626)** for a 24-hour recorded message. All of this doesn't cost you a dime, so you owe it to yourself. Don't put this off any longer. Do it now while you're thinking about it! You have got nothing to lose and everything to gain. Call Now

Harvest Mortgage Company Inc.

Mortgage Bankers

North Carolina Residential Mortgage Licensee

**Subject to Qualification

1-800-972-LEND (536

BUILD YOUR NEW HOME WITH

NO MONEY DOWN

Lincoln, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 912 sq. ft.

Jim Walter Homes is excited about making 1998 the year for many qualified property owners to become very happy homeowners. You can have a new home traditionally built on your lot with

Absolutely No Money Down, No Points, No Closing Costs, No Application Fees, No Private Mortgage Insurance, and Up to 30 Year Financing at 8.5% APR Fixed-Rate* for Qualified Property Owners!

Each Jim Walter home is completely finished on the exterior, with your choice of a variety of option packages to finish the interior up to 100% complete. You may decide to do some of the interior work yourself and save money.

Choose from more than 30 home designs offered by Jim Walter Homes, the nation's largest builder of on-your-lot, single-family homes. Make 1998 the year of your new home.

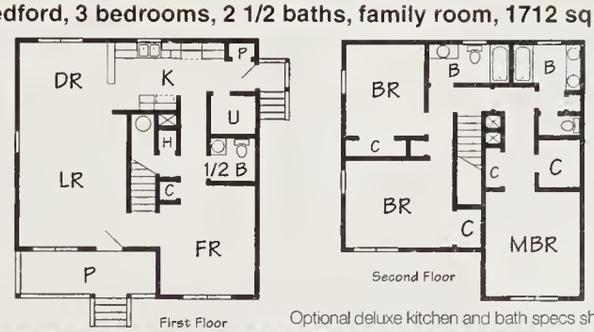
Call **1-800-492-5837 ext 70** for a free brochure and location of your nearest sales center, mail the coupon or visit our web site at **http://www.jimwalterhomes.com**

Jim Walter HOMES

THE NATION'S LARGEST ON-YOUR-LOT HOMEBUILDER OVER 325,000 BUILT SINCE 1946

Open 7 days a week. Weekend Hours Sat. 8 A.M. to 6 P.M., Sun. 1 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Bedford, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room, 1712 sq. ft.



Optional deluxe kitchen and bath specs shown

Please send me your free brochure with more than 30 home designs and information about building on my property. E0398

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone_____

Mail to: JIM WALTER HOMES, P.O. Box 31601, Tampa, FL 33631-3601

*8.5% APR fixed-rate mortgage financing offer good to end of month. No other offers or discounts apply. Prior sales excluded. Typical financing example: $60,000 purchase with no down payment, 360 payments of $461.30 per month (30 years). Floorplan dimensions are approximate. Walkways and shrubs are not included in the standard offering. State License Numbers: AL-523, AR-HB1003, FL-CRC052378, MS-R00356, NC-10840, SC-10773, TN-23042, VA-2701010439A, WV-008536. © Jim Walter Homes, Inc. 1998. Copyright strictly enforced. In Louisiana, Jim Walter Homes of Louisiana, Inc. Jim Walter Homes of Georgia, Inc. Georgia residential mortgage licensee.

A GUIDE TO FINDING *furniture* IN NORTH CAROLINA

by Susan M. Andrews

You're savoring a livermush sandwich and a tumbler of sweet tea at your favorite High Point lunch spot and you notice conversations in Hindi, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Dutch, French or a dozen other languages and dialects. Is it the Twilight Zone? No – it's just evidence of the gargantuan International Home Furnishings Market held every April and October in this city of about 75,000.

For two weeks every spring and fall, the population at least doubles and the city is choked with American and international visitors ranging from business owners, entrepreneurs, millionaires and celebrities to peddlers of all sorts, construction workers, caterers, florists, and youngsters building a pocketful of folding money by offering shoeshines on the street.

Street corners may sport folks dressed as tigers or belly dancers or wearing sandwich boards, handing out pamphlets, gum, pens and tote bags. A live elephant tethered outside a freestanding showroom will barely turn a head. Evenings are filled with glittering parties where the champagne flows and the shrimps look as big as your fist.

Reporters from around the world are treated with deference and their subsequent stories are considered priceless to vendors lucky enough to be featured. The trade press has reporters on the street to get the daily pulse of the market, and the first thing marketgoers grab every morning is Furniture Today, anxiously scanning the "party pages" to see if they are featured in shots from the previous evening.

Local residents often rent their homes for the duration. Some pack themselves and the kids into the family camper and spend the time parked in the campground at nearby Oak Hollow Lake. Others take temporary jobs signing in visitors at the showrooms, unloading trucks, or driving marketgoers to and from restaurants or the airport. Lots of charitable endeavors are enhanced by the sales of homemade lunches and desserts.

Most importantly, the events taking place within the more than 7 million square feet of showroom space create an economic impact that exceeds $250 million a year. That's more than the Kentucky Derby generates, not to mention the ACC basketball tournament, the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Open, the Super Bowl, the World Series, or the Daytona 500. North Carolinians can be extremely proud of the furniture industry and what it does for our state.

If you're not in the furniture business, however, you may want to avoid High Point during these weeks. You'll find no room in any inn within a half-dozen counties, no place to park, and a frantically distracted population — many of whose very livelihood for the next six months depends on the success of these few weeks.

But during the remainder of the year, you can take advantage of this industry by shopping at hundreds of retail outlets, concentrated around the Piedmont Triad, west toward Asheville, north toward Lenoir and south toward Kannapolis. (Since space simply will not permit a comprehensive listing, apologies to any and all locations not specifically mentioned.)

The Furniture Discovery Center in High Point shows all phases of furniture making.

History

A century ago, the furniture industry was spread among places like New York, Chicago and Grand Rapids, Mich. Selling furniture, however, was awkward since it's downright difficult to fit a Queen Anne highboy into a sample case, and the alternative of having to take every retail dealer around the factory to see new products was time-consuming and inefficient. Forward-thinking North Carolina businessmen decided to centralize the whole thing and launched a trade show where producers could showcase samples of their new product and the buyers could all take a look at the same time.

Good thinking. The International Home Furnishings Market is now the largest event of its kind in the entire world. In the late 19th century there were only six furniture plants in North Carolina, but now it is truly the Home Furnishings Capital of the World and High Point is its heart. Tucked snugly among North Carolina's hardwood forests, the "furniture capital" achieved its international status thanks to ample lumber, convenient railroads, and hardworking people. More than 125 furniture factories, including 15 of the world's largest, are located right here, which allows retailers to offer deep discounts, and that's where the fun begins.

This isn't how your mom shopped for furniture

Discount shopping is a far cry from shopping at the furniture store in your home town. At the market sample and closeout centers, for instance, you may or may not find two matching wing chairs. You may go home with a one-of-a-kind market sample that you adore, but because it didn't make the cut at "market," will never go into production, and another like it will never be made. And, if you find a dining table that's perfect in every way except it's cherry and you want mahogany, you may not get your wish. But you will get terrific deals — usually 40 to 60 percent less than retail prices anywhere else in the country – and you should have a good time.

Shopping for a lot or a little?

There are two basic approaches to this discount furniture shopping experience. It's one story, of course, if you are looking for a specific piece, and an entirely different story if you are looking to furnish a whole room or an entire house.

In the High Point area alone, there are mammoth retail outlets, which have been likened to "home decorating theme parks" that offer hundreds of thousands of square feet of furniture of all sorts, arranged by galleries or style, along with dozens of trained sales associates and interior designers who stand ready to help you select (at no extra charge) the perfect sofa — or everything from the sofa, the upholstery fabric, case goods, rugs, wall art, candlesticks and flower arrangements, to the little silk tassels for the corner of a throw pillow.

In addition, there are hundreds of small operations that operate showrooms at the front of their factory, with actual production going on in the back. One good place to see these is the stretch of Hwy. 321 north of I-40 between Hickory and Lenoir. At both ends of this "furniture row" are malls dedicated to furniture. The Hickory Furniture Mart, set on Hwy. 70 is larger and more elaborate than the Lenoir Mall, which is more clearance-center oriented, but holds fabulous savings for savvy shoppers.

Lexington Furniture Industries has several facilities that get electric service from Davidson EMC.

Some of the big guys in and around High Point

Among the big outlets, the granddaddy of them all is Furnitureland South, with 350,000 square feet of showrooms arranged as galleries and representing more than 400 furniture lines, an equally huge distribution center, and a staff of more than 125 sales associates, many of whom are trained designers. Riverdale's Restaurant is located on the premises and serves breakfast and lunch. Furnitureland South is located on Business I-85 between High Point and Greensboro. Write to them at PO Box 1550, Jamestown, NC 27282-1550 or call (336) 841-4328. From your computer, look for them at www.furniturelandsouth.com.

The Atrium Furniture Mall at 430 South Main Street (336-882-5599) has 230,000 square feet on several levels, with 37 independent discount operations offering more than 700 furniture lines. There's an excellent restaurant here, the Atrium Café, and the Atrium Inn is across the street.

Planning ahead

Whether you plan to bring a truck and some tie-down rope and take your purchases home with you, or if you plan to take advantage of the free interior design help and stunning selections at the big outlets, you'll need to bring a few crucial items.

- As much information as possible about your home or room – dimensions, placement of windows and doors, color chips or swatches of your paint, wallpaper, carpet or other floor covering, and those magazine pictures you've saved that demonstrate the look you're seeking.
- A measuring tape. Even if you just go home with a new bookcase, it's painful to discover that the one you selected is too wide for the space you had in mind.
- More ways to pay than just your credit card. Many outlets do not accept plastic and you'll need to prepay a certain percentage of your purchase, with the remainder due in certified funds at the time of delivery.
- Comfortable shoes and energy snacks. Although most of the large stores have restaurants and snack bars on site, you may want to take a break from the whole thing for a while.
- All the brochures you've collected, with telephone numbers, days and hours of operation for the stores you plan to visit, and, if you've made appointments, the times and names you'll need to remember.
- Pen and paper. Even if your mind (like my own, of course) is a steel trap, you invariably will forget where you saw that utterly perfect coffee table, or who manufactured it, or how much it cost, or just how big it was.
- Make appointments in advance, if possible, with the larger outlets.

A sampling of other sources in High Point

Boyles Furniture, 5700 Riverdale Drive
(336) 889-4147.

Rose Furniture Company, 916 Finch Avenue
(336) 886-6050, *website is www.rosefurniture.com*

Youngs, 1706 North Main Street
(336) 883-4111.

Pennsylvania House Collectors Gallery, 1300 North Main Street
(336) 887-3000.

Wood-Armfield, 460 South Main Street
(336) 889-6522.

Utility Craft, 2630 Eastchester Drive (Hwy. 68)
(336) 454-6153.

Black's Furniture, 2800 Westchester Drive (Hwy. 68)
(336) 886-5011.

Furniture Clearance Center, 1107 Tate Street
(336) 882-1688.

The furniture brands at any of these outlets can range from promotional goods made by companies whose names won't ring a bell, to familiar powerhouses like Broyhill, Bassett, Lexington, Thomasville, Universal, Drexel-Heritage, Century and Baker, to companies whose product is so avant-garde their names won't ring a bell either. If the first place you visit isn't your cup of tea, just smile and move on.

Exhibits at the Furniture Discovery Center.

The International Home Furnishings Market in High Point is the largest in the world.

Advance information

For a free brochure, contact the High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau at 300 South Main Street. The mailing address is PO Box 2273, High Point, NC 27261. Phone: (336) 884-5255. Hours: Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Furniture Library of High Point, established in 1970 by Nathan and Bernice Bienenstock, contains the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of books and materials related to the history of furniture and its design. The library is at 1009 North Main Street. (336) 883-4011.

Visit the world's only museum of furniture manufacturing, the Furniture Discovery Center, behind the High Point visitors bureau. This hands-on facility traces furniture production from rough lumber to finished product, demonstrating the changes wrought by high technology as well as the value of the handcrafted techniques. In addition, it is the single best source for furniture-related souvenirs – from silver lapel pins and earrings shaped like chairs to edible chocolate sofas. Web site: www2.hpe.com/discovery. Phone: (336) 887-3876.

Susan Montague Andrews has lived in North Carolina for almost 20 years and is a freelance writer contributing to trade, consumer and special interest publications, including Furniture Today. She lives in High Point.

Emerson Ong

Furniture as art

Considered one of the most eclectic new furniture galleries in North Carolina is Gallery Americas in Carrboro, owned by George Melone, a member of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp. This sampling shows pedestals by Bayley Wharton of Raleigh, and a table by Stoneline Design of Hillsborough.

"The world's largest bureau"

A $59,000 renovation has turned what some High Point residents once described as an oddity and eyesore into a major tourist attraction for the Furniture City. "The World's Largest Bureau," an enormous chest of drawers located two blocks off High Point's Main Street, received its finishing touches in December 1996 and has drawn favorable comment both from local citizens and out-of-town visitors.

Charlotte Young, High Point Convention & Visitors' Bureau executive director, noted that the bureau will give the city a distinctive monument like the Arch in St. Louis or the Space Needle in Seattle. Or, closer to home, the Big Chair just off Main Street in Thomasville.

Designed by High Point furniture designer Sid Lenger, the 40-foot tall bureau made largely of steel and stucco is a deep mahogany red with gold-leaf drawer handles and a rich wood-grain texture. Symbolic of the city's burgeoning hosiery industry, huge socks provided by a local hosiery firm dangle from the second drawer of the bureau. In selecting his design, Lenger chose a classic block style chest developed in the 18th century. He declares, "Fifty years from now we won't need to redo the face because it's classic and will stand the test of time."

Lenger, local businessman Ray Shufelt, and Jaycee member Edwin Bass launched a fund-raising drive to obtain the money needed for the renovation. A major contributor to this drive was the Convention & Visitors Bureau, who donated $13,000.

The High Point Chamber of Commerce built the original bureau in 1926 and maintained it until the 1950s when it donated the structure to the Jaycees, who moved it to its present location at the intersection of Hamilton St. and Westwood Ave. and built their headquarters behind the bureau.

Al Stewart

Fine Furniture Finds
Your stories about those once-in-a-lifetime finds

We hope you enjoy this selection of stories about furniture that has affected the lives of our readers.

So many of the entries for "The Finest Furniture I Ever Found" carried a similar affectionate tone. They spoke of family heirlooms passed through generations, or lovingly restored "junk" that now has considerable value, or the first piece that newlyweds acquired, and even the furniture of nature, such as a hummock in a sand dune. We did not have enough space to publish all the stories we wanted, even though they were as worthy as the ones here.

Thanks to everyone who sent us letters and e-mail.

Next month we'll run some of "the finest jokes" you've ever heard. (Deadline was Feb. 15.)

There's still time to send us your account of "The Best North Carolina Vacation I Ever Had." (They must arrive at our office by March 15.)

Themes for the remaining months are listed on page 20.

—MG

A remnant in the woods

Tucked in the foothills of the Piedmont are folks at work in furniture factories making some fine furniture. But, the finest furniture that I ever found was not in factories, stores or showrooms.

My favorite find was during my early years when I would go squirrel hunting in the woods of western North Carolina. I would walk for a while until I got tired. Then I would start looking for a place to sit down. I could usually find a large tree to lean against on a lazy winter day. Once in a while I would find a tree that had broken off about two feet from the ground, and I could sit on the side of the tree. But my favorite place to sit was on the stump of a tree that had been cut down.

I also realize that my favorite piece of furniture, the stump, is the remnant of the wood that is used to make some of the finest furniture in North Carolina.

Donald M. Campbell
Rutherfordton
Rutherford EMC

Travels with a table

1973, *Neosho, Missouri*: Bought ugly drop leaf table for $12. Stripped off 12 coats of paint, repainted sunny yellow.

1974, *Manhattan, Kansas*: Table fills tiny kitchen of basement apartment. Used for eating, studying, and burning midnight oil to survive graduate school.

1975, *Manhattan, Kansas*: Fell in love sipping ice tea at table. Alas! Poor timing, didn't work out.

1976, *New Orleans, Louisiana*: Table too small for big kitchen of shotgun house. Holds typewriter while composing master's thesis.

1977, *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*: Table just right in kitchen of town home. Entertains friends, entertains lost love Thanksgiving weekend. Alas! Poor timing, didn't work out.

1979, *Carrboro, North Carolina*: Table out of place in dining area of new apartment. Entertains lost love. Timing much better! Holds sewing machine while wedding gown under construction.

1980, *Greenville, North Carolina*: Table reaches final home, must move to barn. Happy days serving refreshments to giggling 4-Hers.

1994, *Greenville, North Carolina*: Lightning strikes barn. Table reduced to ashes. Memories last a lifetime.

Betty Burlingham
Greenville
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Dad's refinishing touches

My Dad worked in a furniture factory until he retired at age 65. After retiring, he decided he didn't want to sit around the house and do nothing, so he started refinishing furniture. He could take something that you would have thought belonged in the dump and turn it into a very beautiful piece of furniture. He took pride in every piece that he did. He would not let it leave his little shop until it was just like he wanted it to look.

He did most of his work by hand. Because he couldn't afford some of the expensive tools it takes to refinish furniture, he would work for hours at a time to get a piece finished, because he knew somebody else would bring another piece by.

My Dad had to stop refinishing furniture in the winter of 1996. In February 1997, when he was 87 years old, he found out that he had cancer, and he passed away in May 1997.

As I look around my house, I still see my Dad in the furniture that he gave to me.

Nancy Gravitt Woodall
Littleton
Halifax Electric Membership Corporation

A place to read

As long as I can remember, I've loved to read. While my sisters ran though the clover or jumped from the hayloft, I traveled with a good book.

I remember one day, when I was about six, having searched all the usual places for good reading. No luck. Only one other place might contain those treasures.

In an upstairs bedroom, by a west-facing window, sat a large, curly-maple dresser. It was about as high as my head and held four big drawers. On top sat a matching bookcase.

Carefully, I stepped up on the windowsill, then on a dresser knob. After several tries, I made it to the top of the dresser. Inching to one side, I carefully opened the bookcase door. There, within, sat a big, thick, brown "Uncle Remus" book! Leaning back against the wall, my bottom barely narrower than that 10¼-inch surface, I read my fill.

When Dad was in his 90s, I told him how I'd enjoyed my perch there. He willed me the dresser and bookcase. They sit in my bedroom now—a constant reminder of sunny afternoons, a skinny, curious child, and a father's love.

Ellen Payne
Hertford
Albemarle EMC

Hoecakes and gravy

About 1956 I moved to an old farmhouse at Dobson, N.C. The house had been wired, but due to a boundary dispute between REA [Surry-Yadkin EMC] and Duke, the wires were not to the house.

I tried cooking in the fireplace, but that didn't work well. I found several large rocks beside a field and a piece of tin in the woods. I rolled the rocks to the back of the yard and put the tin over them for a place to cook.

One day as I put wood into the fire a rock shifted, causing my pot of pintos to spill. Being desperate so late in the day, I put on a pot of black-eye peas to cook. I baked hoecakes and made gravy for breakfast, then pintos, potatoes, or black-eye peas for supper.

This fine stove was energy efficient and served for three weeks until Surry-Yadkin EMC ran wires to the house. And the Lord withheld the rain during that time.

Mary Columbine
Westfield
Surry-Yadkin EMC

Stained with pokeberry juice

The table in my kitchen is not only a beautiful piece of furniture but is a Kersey family heirloom as well. I found the table under the barn shelter after my brother had moved.

The table was made by my Grandfather Kersey when he married my grandmother in 1898. The top of the table is three boards. One is 22 inches, another 24 inches and the third is 6 inches wide. The table is 52 inches across and 72 inches long. The legs have rings made with a lathe. It is 30 inches high. It was not painted but stained with pokeberry juice. I can remember as a child eating at the big red table with benches on each side and a chair at each end.

It was in such bad shape when I found it that 9 inches had to be cut off all around it. There were big holes and oil on it where they'd worked on a motor on it. To get the oil out of the wood, I put a quarter-inch of liquid wood on it and filled in the holes, let that set about a week, then sanded it down. I put mahogany stain on it, and it is really beautiful. But I wish I had waited until the summer and re-stained it with pokeberry juice.

Lula Kersey Grover
Fayetteville
South River EMC

The floating footstool

While living in Yadkin County in the 1930s, my family and I lived through the "Yadkin Flood." My parents gathered all seven of us kids and we "roosted" on the rooftop until help came. During our wait on the rooftop, a handmade slatted footstool came floating by, and we were able to grab it and keep it with us until help arrived.

We kept that footstool in our family for all these years, and it still remains a part of our furnishings. It reminds us of the devastation of the flood and how lucky we all were to be rescued without loss of life, even though we lost almost everything else we owned.

Ruth Watson
Mt. Airy
Surry-Yadkin EMC

Boys and their bunk beds

I was barely old enough to be called an adult when my grandfather, who I called "Whiskers," my youngest brother Paul and I were in a wagon pulled by a horse that seemed to be as old as Grandpa. It was on the same road where my Dad had taken us to get our first set of bunk beds.

We rode for what seemed to be hours. But it was only about 20 minutes later when we got to Mr. Ketchy's store. I was the first inside. I had already picked out the beds, because I had seen them a million times. And Paul agreed that this was the set we wanted.

Mr. Ketchy and Dad carefully loaded the beds on the wagon, and off we went, back up the old dusty road home. We had the beds inside and put together in no time flat. That was the first time in years that Paul and I volunteered to take a bath and go to bed without being told to, mostly so we could play on our new beds, or I should say with my new spaceship and Paul's new battleship.

We had the most fun with our new beds that summer. They even doubled as a place for us to sleep when we got tired.

Not only did those bunk beds last through me and Paul, they also lasted through my two sons. So if these beds could last through two generations of rough and tumble boys, it has to be the finest furniture.

Don L Taylor
Kannapolis
Crescent EMC

A girl and a music box

I bought my most treasured piece of furniture when I was 12 years old.

Every Saturday my father took us shopping and we always ended up visiting an antique dealer who sold stamps since my father was a collector.

I was 10 when I first discovered the music boxes there. I fell in love with one in a mahogany box made by the Regina Music Box Company. It played 21-inch steel records. I begged my father to let me buy the box, which cost $18. Although my allowance was only 25 cents a week, I had a savings account with enough to buy it, but my father would not let me.

Thereafter when we visited that shop, the dealer, Mr. Mickelson, would play the music box for me and I would beg for it once again. A couple of years went by, and one Saturday the music box had a "sold" sign on it. I was crushed.

Several weeks later Mr. Mickelson told me the person who had put a deposit on the box never came back, and he would let me have it for $15. I begged even harder and my father finally wrote a check – just to shut me up I'm sure. On the way home my father offered me $100 for the box, but there was no way I would part with it.

Since then my husband and I raised four children, all of whom came to love the music box. And I still have the canceled $15 check.

Dorothy Smith
New Bern
Tideland EMC

Send in your stories and photos. Earn $50.

Here are the themes and deadlines for the coming months of "Nothing Could Be Finer." You don't have to be a superior writer to send us a letter. Put your heart into it, as the writers this month did.

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Typed or e-mail, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
4. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
6. We pay $50 for each submission published.
7. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

May
The Finest North Carolina Vacation I Ever Had
Where, when and what happened.
Deadline: March 15

June
The Finest Job I Ever Had
Where was it, why was it so good?
Deadline: April 15

July
The Finest Meal I Ever Had
We're talking North Carolina food here.
Deadline: May 15

August
The Finest Lesson I Ever Learned at School
Any grade, any school.
Deadline: June 15

September
The Finest Pictures of North Carolina, a photo contest.
North Carolina people and places.
Color or B&W.
Deadline: July 15

October
You're So Fine: Why I Like My Electric Cooperative
What does your electric cooperative mean to you?
Deadline: August 15

November
The Finest North Carolina Gift You Can Give
(Made in North Carolina.)
Deadline: Sept. 15

December
The Finest Story in North Carolina History
Historical truths, humorous or otherwise.
Deadline: Oct. 15

Continue Building Your Future!

The symbol of excellence since 1903.

Discover "The Distinct Advantage" of Owning a Morton Building!

The family farm and Morton Buildings have been symbols of hard work and dedication for generations. Morton Buildings understands how important your farm is to you. That is why Morton Buildings will provide you with only superior quality materials.

Morton Buildings uses those materials to offer the small farmer a variety of structures to choose from—such as: suburban garages and hobby facilities, machine storage structures, equestrian and livestock facilities, and farm shops. Morton Buildings will create the structure you desire.

You can create a unique building or match the style of your existing structures. Your local Morton Buildings sales consultant—along with a team of design and construction estimators, engineers, and architects—will work closely with you to design a building that reflects your individual needs. Your new structure will operate efficiently with minimum maintenance year after year. Best of all, your Morton building will be backed by the best warranties in the building business.

Don't wait until your future becomes your past. Choose the company that has been investing in rural America for the past 94 years. Contact your local Morton Buildings construction center today.

800-447-7436
ask for extension 82

MORTON BUILDINGS®

P. O. Box 399, Morton, IL 61550
www.mortonbuildings.com

© 1997 Morton Buildings, Inc.

Interstate Assurance Company

1206 Mulberry, Des Moines, IA 50309

Introduces

AFFORDABLE LIFE INSURANCE

The Best Idea For . . . Personal Insurance - Business Insurance - Mortgage Protection

Copyright 1/90 All Rights Reserved

NON-SMOKER RATES

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	$50,000		$100,000		$250,000		$500,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
20	8.91	8.24	12.42	11.07	22.95	19.58	40.50	33.75
21	8.91	8.24	12.42	11.07	22.95	19.58	40.50	33.75
22	8.91	8.24	12.42	11.07	22.95	19.58	40.50	33.75
23	8.91	8.24	12.42	11.07	22.95	19.58	40.50	33.75
24	8.91	8.24	12.42	11.07	22.95	19.58	40.50	33.75
25	8.91	8.24	12.42	11.07	22.95	19.58	40.50	33.75
26	9.00	8.24	12.60	11.07	23.40	19.58	41.40	33.75
27	9.14	8.28	12.87	11.16	24.08	19.80	42.75	34.20
28	9.18	8.28	12.96	11.16	24.30	19.80	43.20	34.20
29	9.23	8.37	13.05	11.34	24.53	20.25	43.65	35.10
30	9.36	8.42	13.32	11.43	25.20	20.48	45.00	35.55
31	9.45	8.42	13.50	11.43	25.65	20.48	45.90	35.55
32	9.54	8.51	13.68	11.61	26.10	20.93	46.80	36.45
33	9.63	8.55	13.86	11.70	26.55	21.15	47.70	36.90
34	9.68	8.69	13.95	11.97	26.78	21.83	48.15	38.25
35	9.81	8.73	14.22	12.06	27.45	22.05	49.50	38.70
36	9.95	8.87	14.49	12.33	28.13	22.73	50.85	40.05
37	9.99	8.91	14.58	12.42	28.35	22.95	51.30	40.50
38	10.13	9.05	14.85	12.69	29.03	23.63	52.65	41.85
39	10.17	9.18	14.94	12.96	29.25	24.30	53.10	43.20
40	10.31	9.32	15.21	13.23	29.93	24.98	54.45	44.55
41	10.40	9.50	15.39	13.59	30.38	25.88	55.35	46.35
42	10.49	9.63	15.57	13.86	30.83	26.55	56.25	47.70
43	10.58	9.77	15.75	14.13	31.28	27.23	57.15	49.05
44	10.71	9.86	16.02	14.31	31.95	27.68	58.50	49.95
45	10.76	9.99	16.11	14.58	32.18	28.35	58.95	51.30

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	$50,000		$100,000		$250,000		$500,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
46	10.80	10.13	16.20	14.85	32.40	29.03	59.40	52.65
47	10.94	10.26	16.47	15.12	33.08	29.70	60.75	54.00
48	11.12	10.40	16.83	15.39	33.98	30.38	62.55	55.35
49	11.39	10.62	17.37	15.84	35.33	31.50	65.25	57.60
50	11.84	10.80	18.27	16.20	37.58	32.40	69.75	59.40
51	12.38	11.21	19.35	17.01	40.28	34.43	75.15	63.45
52	13.23	11.57	21.06	17.73	44.55	36.23	83.70	67.05
53	14.27	12.06	23.13	18.72	49.73	38.70	94.05	72.00
54	15.66	12.69	25.92	19.98	56.70	41.85	108.00	78.30
55	17.37	13.46	29.34	21.51	65.25	45.68	125.10	85.95
56	19.44	14.36	33.48	23.31	75.60	50.18	145.80	94.95
57	21.83	15.44	38.25	25.47	87.53	55.58	169.65	105.75
58	24.57	16.56	43.74	27.72	101.25	61.20	197.10	117.00
59	27.45	17.82	49.50	30.24	115.65	67.50	225.90	129.60
60	30.65	19.22	55.89	33.03	131.63	74.48	257.85	143.55

Other ages and other amounts with guaranteed rates available upon request.

Other amounts available upon request. Premiums are standard rates based on applicant's age at issuance of policy. Premiums may be paid annually or by monthly bank draft only. Policies are non-cancellable as long as premiums are paid. (A no-cost medical exam may be required depending on age, health or amount of coverage desired). Policies above are ELITE ONE, Yearly Renewable Term Policy. Policy Form No. 395. Level Death Benefit to age 100. Premiums increase annually. Re-entry is available (with evidence of insurability) in years six and eleven, however, re-entry is not available on rated policies or after attained age 70. Issued by Interstate Assurance Company, Des Moines, IA 50309. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES.

CLIP AND MAIL TODAY FOR QUICK RESPONSE

For More Information Call:
1-800-565-4165

For Priority Service - FAX:
(708) 445-0420

Or clip and mail the Application Request Form in an envelope to:

Jim Olson
National Processing Center
P.O. Box 5288
River Forest, IL 60305

Great Smoker Rates Also Available!

Application Request Form

The information you provide will be kept in strict confidence.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ ❑ MALE ❑ FEMALE

AMT. OF INS. DESIRED _____ ❑ SMOKER ❑ NON-SMOKER

HOME PHONE ( ) _____ WORK PHONE ( ) _____

BENEFICIARY _____ AGE _____

The best time to call me is:

❑ Morning ❑ Afternoon ❑ Evening (❑ Home ❑ Work)

I wish to pay my premiums: ❑ Annually ❑ Semi-Annually ❑ Monthly Bank Draft

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REQUESTED FOR:

NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ ❑ MALE ❑ FEMALE

AMT. OF INS. DESIRED _____ ❑ SMOKER ❑ NON-SMOKER

Comments: _____

I am interested in: ❑ 10 year term ❑ 15 year term ❑ 20 year term

OM7-A017-Elite 1

Retreat From The World In The Comfort Of A Southland Log Home.

Imagine a house that s as comfortable as a cozy warm quilt in the wintertime. A house that s always peaceful and simple. That s what living in a Southland Log Home is like.

For over 18 years, Southland has been making folks feel right at home. Because log for log, you just get more value with Southland.

Call toll-free (888) 883-8884 or write for your 56-page *Southland Log Home Planning Guide* today. It s just $7.50 but we think it s priceless.

Southland Log Homes®

Visit our model homes:
- Columbia, I-26 Exit 101
- Greenville, I-85 Exit 39
- Greensboro, I-40/85 Exit 135

To order your Southland Log Homes Planning Guide, just call toll free 1-888-883-8884, or send $7.50 to:

Southland Log Homes, Mill and National Sales Office,
7521 Broad River Rd., P.O. Box 1668, Irmo, SC 29063-1668.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Visa/MC Welcome. © 1998 Southland Log Homes. Pa

Character Plates

By Jason Dunn

They aren't as loud as bumper stickers, but they do proclaim something about the driver. They are specialized license plates on sale now at your local Division of Motor Vehicles outlet.

From civic clubs to college alumni, square dancers to the National Guard, North Carolinians can show their pride, spell out a message or raise money for a cause through these specially-stamped plates.

Specialized license plates are nothing new, yet over the past few years, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has seen resurgence in their popularity. A quick look around a crowded parking lot reveals the growing variety of the plates. Members of the Amran Temple and the Sudan Temple can get them as can retired members of the armed services, amateur radio operators and firemen, just to name a few.

The DMV offers 59 different specialized plates, and more than 30,000 can be found on the roads. And the DMV continues to field calls about adding new plates to the specialized ranks.

In most cases, getting permission for a specially-made plate takes nothing less than an act of the General Assembly. However, colleges, professional sports teams, and tax-exempt, nationally-recognized civic groups are covered by a blanket statute approved by the General Assembly. All these organizations need to do is complete a questionnaire, and upon its approval by the attorney general, get at least 300 prepaid applications for the plate before it will be stamped.

For other groups or local organizations, consideration takes the form of a bill in either the House or Senate that must work its way through the General Assembly and be signed by the governor. This law spells out the additional fees and the minimum number of prepaid applications necessary before a plate can be produced, typically 300.

Owning a personalized plate doesn't come cheaply. On top of the standard license fee of $20 ($25 in some counties), these plates carry an additional $10 to $30 fee that, as with a standard tag, must be paid annually in order to keep it.

Where does the extra money go? By law, the fees are distributed among three accounts set up by the state government: the Special Registration Plate Account (SRPA), the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account (CCAPA) and the Natural Heritage Trust Fund (NHTF). The amount going into each account varies depending on the type of plate, and the guidelines are specified in the plate's legislation.

Money within these accounts is used for a variety of purposes. For example, the SRPA is used to cover the costs of issuing, handling and advertising specialized plates as well as to help in the maintenance of the state's visitor centers and roadside beautification projects.

Even with the extra fees, members are loyal to their plates. The state has yet to discontinue a plate because of a lack of interest.

In fact, interest may be too great. In 1997, the General Assembly approved a moratorium on the issuing of new plates until a study of the specialized plate program is completed. Plates that are already available are not affected by the suspension. At issue is whether the General Assembly has made it too easy for groups to get their own plates. By comparison, some states require as many as 1,000 members to express interest before a custom plate will be produced.

Jason Dunn is a senior at North Carolina State University. He served as an editorial intern for Carolina Country last semester.

Top 5 Specialized Plates

1. Amateur Radio Operators
2. University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
3. Purple Heart Veterans
4. North Carolina State University
5. Retired Army

Specialized Plates Available	Additional Cost
Air Force Reserve	$10
Amateur Radio Operators	$10
Amran Temple	$10
Appalachian State University*	$25
Army Reserve	$10
Assigned National Guard	No Fee
Carolina Panthers	$10
Civil Air Patrol	$10
Citizens Band Radio	$10
Clemson University*	$25
Coast Guard Auxiliary	$10
Coast Guard Reserve	$10
Congressional Medal of Honor	No Fee
Duke University*	$25
East Carolina University*	$25
Fireman	$10
Fraternal Order of Police	$10
Fireman / Rescue Squad	$10
Historic Lighthouse*	$30
Knights of Columbus	$10
Legion of Valor	$10
Marine Corps Reserve	$10
Masonic Temple	$10
Naval Reserve	$10
North Carolina State University*	$25
Oasis Temple	$10
Olympic Spirit*	$25
Partially Disabled Veteran	$10
Pearl Harbor Survivor	$10
Pembroke University*	$25
Personalized (Vanity)	$20
Purple Heart Veteran	$10
Rescue Squad	$10
Retired Air Force	$10
Retired Army	$10
Retired Marine	$10
Retired Navy	$10
Retired National Guard	$10
Sons of the Confederacy	$10
Square Dance	$10
Sudan Temple	$10
UNC – Chapel Hill*	$25
UNC – Charlotte*	$25
Wake Forest University*	$25
Wildlife Resources*	$20

*Can be personalized for an additional $20 fee.

Did You Know?

- North Carolina first began to require the licensing and registration of vehicles in 1909.
- The current form of license plate was first issued in 1917.
- Inmates have been stamping license plates in Raleigh's Central Prison since 1929.
- Various color combinations for the plates have been used, including black on white; light blue on white; yellow on black; red on white; green on white; and today's medium blue on white.
- Three different slogans have appeared on North Carolina's plates: "Drive Safely" (1956-1964), "First in Freedom" (1975-1979) and "First in Flight" (1982-present).

Source: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Where Does the Money Go?

Below is a breakdown of where the extra fees for specialized license plates are used.

Plate Category	Special Registration Plate Account	Collegiate & Cultural Plate Account	Natural Heritage Trust Fund
Historical Attraction	$10	$20	-
In-State Collegiate Insignia	$10	$15	-
Out-of-State Collegiate Insignia	$10	-	$15
Personalized	$10	-	$10
Scenic Rivers	$10	$10	-
Special Olympics	$10	$15	-
Olympic Games	$10	$15	-
State Attraction	$10	$20	-
Wildlife Resources	$10	$10	-
All other	$10	-	-

Video shows how to make a southern country breakfast

A Monroe couple has produced a 45-minute videotape that shows in actual time how to prepare a Southern-style country breakfast.

"Cookbooks are great, but a picture is worth a thousand words," says Delane Winchester, who produced the video with her husband, David. "By using an on-screen display of items and ingredients, we have created a visual learning experience. To learn, it takes watching a process from start to finish with no short-cuts. Our video features actual cooking time for a unique cook-along lesson."

The menu includes French toast, fried and scrambled eggs, western omelet, waffles, country ham, milk gravy, breakfast fried potatoes and homemade biscuits.

The Winchesters, who are members of Union Electric Membership Corporation, say the video is good for first-time cooks and as a gift.

"Cooking Made Easy: Breakfast Time" costs $15.95 plus 6 percent sales tax and $4 shipping ($20.91 total), and is available by credit card from CIN Services in Matthews at (800) 847-8507.

The story of Black Ankle

Find out more about the little place with the funny name in Montgomery County. Ruby Odom Perkins, born in Black Ankle, has written a book, "The Story of Black Ankle, North Carolina: And People Around About." Her book includes superstitions, tales and sayings passed on from her parents about the history and heritage of this small area of Montgomery County. The limited edition book, bound in a gold-embossed cover, costs $35 (postage paid). Contact Ruby Odom Perkins, 114 Chain Street, Darlington, SC 29532.

"Born in the Carolinas," Pepsi turns 100 in New Bern

New Bern will be the site of plenty of hoopla April 3-5 during a 100th anniversary celebration of Pepsi-Cola.

Local pharmacist Caleb Bradham first mixed his elixir syrup and soda water in the late 1890s, served it at his soda fountain and named it Pepsi-Cola in 1898 because he figured it aided dyspepsia. People liked it. He began bottling the drink in 1905 and soon awarded bottling franchises — the first two in Charlotte and Durham. By 1910 the Pepsi-Cola Co. had expanded to 24 states and 210 bottlers.

A commemorative store and museum has been built at the site of Bradham's corner drugstore in New Bern. The world's largest collection of Pepsi memorabilia will be on display, and its owner, Bob Stoddard of California, will be in town signing his new book, "Pepsi, 100 Years." He also will appraise private collections of Pepsi ephemera.

Events in New Bern include entertainment (Charlie Daniels Band on Saturday night), historical dramas, fireworks over the Trent River, a Saturday parade, remarks by dignitaries and special events downtown.

For more information, call (800) 437-5767.

Jerry Wolford, Greensboro News & Record

"On the Wing" comes to the N.C. Zoo

Birds of prey will be swooping past visitors' heads in the North Carolina Zoo's amphitheater from March 14 through May 14 in the World Sanctuary's 1998 presentation of "On the Wing." The show will be performed three times daily at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Admission is included in the price of seeing the zoo ($8 adults, $5 for children and seniors). The zoo is open every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 31 and to 5 p.m. through Oct. 31. For more information, call (800) 488-0444.

Sculptures wanted

Sculptors are invited to submit two pieces to the 13th annual sculpture celebration to be held August 8 at J.E. Broyhill Park in Lenoir. The event is promoted among private collectors and corporate buyers, and it offers $12,000 to sculptors in purchases and awards.

For more information contact the Caldwell Arts Council at (704) 754-2486.

Win big with a recipe for turkey

Five winners of the 1998 North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest will get a combined $1,900 in prizes in September at the annual Turkey Cook-off in Raeford. Recipes must use at least one pound of turkey meat and serve four or more people. Judging is based on taste, simplicity, appearance and appeal.

Get an entry form and send your recipe in by May 1. Contact the Turkey Contest, N.C. Turkey Federation, 4020 Barrett Dr., Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27609. (Entries must received no later than June 1.)

Seniors can get help preparing taxes

The American Association of Retired Persons offers free tax preparation for moderate and low income elderly taxpayers through April 15.

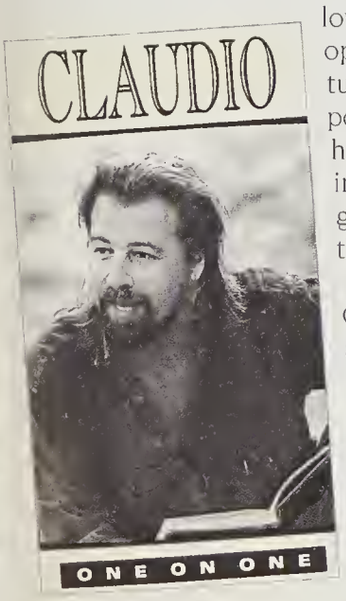
Tax-Aide volunteer counselors, trained by the Internal Revenue Service, are available at various community sites. Counselors are trained with special emphasis on problems likely to be encountered by older taxpayers. Now in its 30th year, the Tax-Aide program prepares more than 1,500,000 federal and state returns nationwide.

To locate the Tax-Aide site nearest you, call your local IRS information office, listed under the "U. S. Government" section in your telephone directory.

Poet-performer scheduled to appear at Temple Theatre in Sanford

Claudio Oswald Niedworok, a classical poet and performance artist, will present his work "Seafarers, Chronicles of the Suspense and Romance of the Sea" at Temple Theatre in Sanford on May 1.

Claudio, a Harnett County resident and member of South River Electric Membership Corp., has attracted a following for his mesmerizing "poetic opera" style productions that feature storytelling, music and supporting performers. Inspiration for his seafaring performance came in part from his adventures as a gourmet chef aboard yachts in the Caribbean.



Of German-Italian ancestry, Claudio grew up in South Africa and moved to the U.S. at age 14 when his family came to North Carolina.

For information about his book and performance schedule, contact Tori Knight, P.O. Box 1080, Broadway, NC 27505. Phone: (919) 499-0997.

Analyzing weather and commodities markets

Roemer Weather, Inc. based in Raleigh is a private weather forecaster working primarily for the commodities business, including the grain and energy markets.

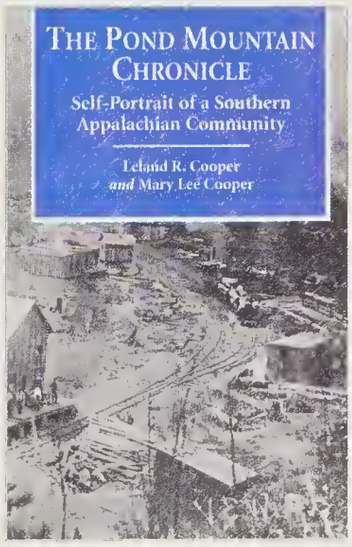
Meteorologist James Roemer, 38, founded the business in 1987 "to help people be better investors in the commodity markets by understanding how the weather and peoples' daily economic lives are connected." Roemer bases predictions on current and past weather conditions and how economic trends and markets interact.

Roemer works with Freese-Notis Weather Inc., a private weather firm based in Iowa, in publishing a newsletter called "Trade Winds." He has appeared on CNBC-TV and in the Wall Street Journal.

For more information, contact Roemer Weather at (888) 880-7769, or by e-mail at romerwx@investaweather.com. It's on the Web at www.investaweather.com.

Self-portrait of a mountain community

The people and heritage of Pond Mountain have been immortalized in a book compiled and edited by Leland R. and Mary Lee Cooper. "The Pond Mountain Chronicle: Self-Portrait of a Southern Appalachian Community," contains reflections of 31 Pond Mountain residents. A small area of the southern Appalachian Mountains in Ashe County, Pond Mountain borders Tennessee and Virginia and is served by Blue Ridge Electric. Published by McFarland & Company, the softcover book has 252 pages, photographs and an index. Copies cost $25, plus shipping and sales tax.



McFarland & Company also has recently published a first-hand look at the area in "Memoirs of Grassy Creek: Growing Up in the Mountains on the Virginia-North Carolina Line," by Zetta Barker Hamby. It is a 248-page softcover book with photographs and an index. The cost is $25, plus shipping and sales tax.

Contact McFarland & Company, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640. Phone orders: (800) 253-2187.

The *Well-Dressed* Electric Cooperative Lineworker

A professional will not go near live power lines without wearing nearly 50 pounds of protective gear. Neither should you.

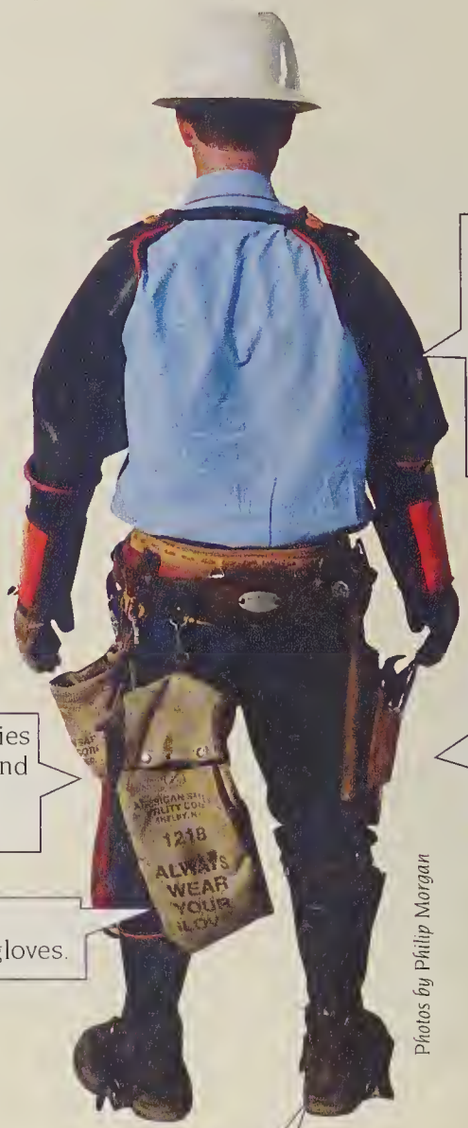
Electric cooperative line workers receive extensive training in job skills, competence and safety. They renew their training regularly and subject themselves and their equipment to periodic safety inspections and tests.

Cooperatives take job safety very seriously. When cooperatives formed in North Carolina in the early 1940s, the first statewide program they established was the Job Safety and Training Program in 1943. The program today is one of the most respected in the nation because of its high standards of education and its safety record.

Next time you see a co-op line crew maintaining your system, consider the long hours of skills and safety training they have had. For more information, contact the safety coordinator at your cooperative. All co-ops have one.

Class B hard hat.
Plastic-lens safety glasses with side shields.
Leather protectors for rubber gloves to ward off splinters and other sharp objects.
Body belt.
20,000-volt, insulated rubber gloves. They are inspected before each use, and tested and rated at a lab every 30 days to ensure their reliability.
Double-locking safety strap attaches to the body belt and wraps around pole for climbing.
16-inch, steel-toed, leather boots.

Tim Tippett, Line Crew Leader, Brunswick Electric Membership Corp., Southport-Oak Island District – 200 lbs. (with gear, 250 lbs.)


20,000-volt rubber sleeves protect aga energized lines. Th are inspected befo each use, and teste and rated at a lab e 30 days to ensure their reliability.
Hand tools, such as pliers, screwdrivers, hammer, wrenches, ruler and knife.
Nut bag carries bolts, nuts and other small materials.
Bag for rubber gloves.
Climbing hooks for wood structures.
1218
ALWAYS WEAR YOUR

Photos by Philip Morgan

SEE THE STARS AT THE CROWN COLISEUM

rlem Globetrotters
rch 21

Information: 910-323-5088

Harper & Morgan Rodeo
March 26-28

Disney's Stars on Ice™
April 5

Cumberland County Coliseum Complex – Fayetteville, NC

WE CUSTOM BUILD ON YOUR LOT!

Model Homes Located:
Highway 40 & 85, Exit 143, Burlington, NC
Highway 421 West, Dunn, NC

NO MONEY DOWN

No Closing Costs
Special financing for
First Time Home Buyers

For a Free Brochure Call:

Burlington, NC
1-800-562-9550

Dunn, NC
1-800-682-8129

Freedom Family Homes
"We Build On Your Lot"

RWG
Ten Year Warranty

Equal Housing Opportunity

PO Box 2074 • Burlington, North Carolina 27216-2074
PO Box 608 • Dunn, North Carolina 28335

© by Charles Joyner

Phone-Etics

Environmentalist

I love to see a lovely tree;
It thrills me when I see one.
And you can take it straight
from me,
I'd rather see than saw one.

"I can't speak for other marriages, but the secret of our marriage is that Ike and I have...

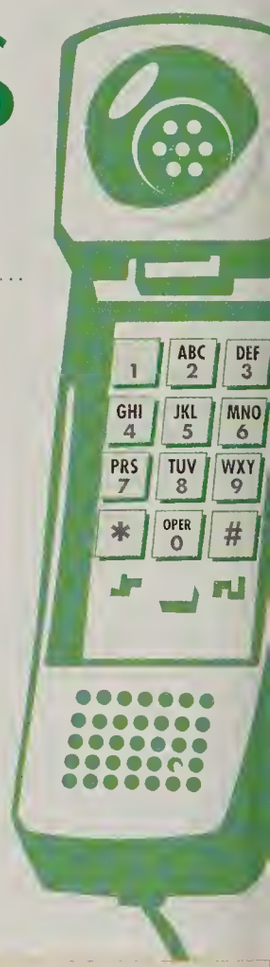
6	6	8	4	4	6	4

4	6		2	6	6	6	6	6

."

Mamie Eisenhower

If you were to punch in the numbers above on your telephone pad, you would spell out the missing words. Go Figure!



Math Words

Each letter in the division problem stands for a digit. Can you replace the digits? *Hint: Solve first for the letter* B.

```
      H A R E
   ---------
A | M A R C H
    M A
    -----
        R
        B
      ---
      M C
      M C
      ---
          H
          H
          -
```

Southern Exposure

Number, Please?

This month my telephone number will be increased by one billion, two hundred and forty thousand. The phone company has apologized for any inconvenience, but says in effect, "When you gotta grow, you gotta grow."

At this writing you can reach me by "dialing" (poking?) seven billion, forty-six million, nine hundred and seventy-two thousand, two hundred and forty-four. When you add one billion, two hundred and forty thousand to that you get eight billion, two hundred and eighty-six million, nine hundred and seventy-two thousand, two hundred and forty-four – my new telephone number when our area code changes in western North Carolina later this month.

It boggles my mind to think that our telephones are connected by wires and wireless to so many billions of other telephones. When I was a small boy growing up in Wilson, more years ago than I care to admit, I used to get a big kick out of calling my dad at his office. I would pull a chair under the telephone on the wall, put the telephone book in the chair to make me a fraction of an inch taller when I stood on it, and lift the receiver off the hook. A lady with a nice voice would say, "Number, please?" and I would say, "eight-three-six."

In a lot of ways, life was much simpler in those days.

Answer on page 45

HOMEOWNER LOANS

WHEN BANKS SAY NO . . . WE SAY, YES!!!

1ST MORTGAGES

Amount	360 Months *7.0%	180 Months *6.625%
$50,000	$332.65	$439.00
$100,000	$665.30	$877.99
$150,000	$997.95	$1316.99

CREATIVE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Servicing

North Carolina's

Mortgage Needs

EQUITY LOANS

DEBT CONSOLIDATION

	Payment	Balance
Auto	$291.00	$13,000
Mastercard	$120.00	$3,200
Visa	$190.00	$4,500
Medical	$200.00	$3,000
Total	$801.00	$23,700

Your old monthly payment $801.00

Your new monthly payment $268.50

$$$ You Save Monthly $$$ $532.50

$6,390.00/ yearly savings

Based on $25,000 Loan/180 Months/*9.99%

Pre-Qualify by Phone

FEDERATED MORTGAGE, INC.

(800) 466-1635 or (800) 854-2336

- Rates subject to change and qualification
- APR may vary

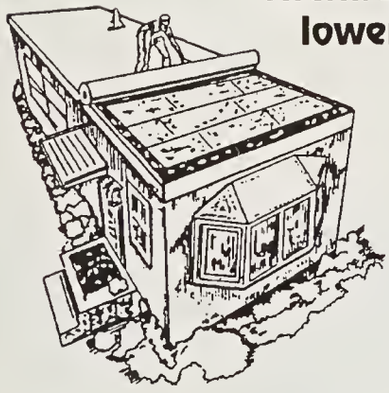
Multi-State Mortgage Licensee

Fixed Rates

As Seen On TV

The Insulated Mobile Home Roofing System

Thermal Tech, the affordable roof system that lowers power bills in winter and summer.



$100 Rebate

Call today for a FREE Roof Inspection and Estimate

THERMAL TECH ROOFING

1-800-849-5715

Decide for Yourself

Old Metal Roof	vs.	New Thermal Tech
☐ Expensive heat escapes thru the roof		☐ Thick insulation retains heat in your home
☐ Condensation forms in the attic		☐ No attic condensation
☐ Attic condensation freezes there and in walls		☐ No condensation forms
☐ Furnace or heaters usually run all day and night		☐ Heat source runs only as needed
☐ Leaks let water ruin ceiling, walls and floors		☐ No leaks
☐ Seal, paint, repair every year		☐ Maintenance-free and guaranteed lifetime warranty
☐ Rumbles in winter wind		☐ Quiet in the worst storms
☐ Deteriorates annually		☐ Adds to the value of your home

Carolina Compass

Notable Women
March 1, Elizabeth City
Marguerite McCall and members of Girls Incorporated of the Albemarle provide costumed interpretations and skits to introduce women from the past and present who have influenced our lives. Museum of the Albemarle. (919) 335-1453.

Pro-Am Ski Race
March 1, Banner Elk
Racing begins at 8:30 a.m. at Hawksnest Ski Resort. (800) 822-HAWK.

NC Symphony
March 4, Southern Pines
Concert with the Moore and Lee County Choral Societies. 8 p.m. Pinecrest High School Auditorium, Hwy 15-501. (910) 295-8558.

Sustainable/Organic Growers
March 7, Kenansville
Over 15 workshops on specialty markets, livestock and certified fees, vegetables, herbs, greenhouse production and natural fibers/dyes. Registration, $15. At James Sprunt Community College. Contact Lynn Lucas, (910) 285-6291 or meslmcl@duplinnet.com

Fiddler's & Bluegrass Convention
March 7, Statesville
At MacGray Auditorium, 7 p.m. (704) 872-6776.

Beech Bump Challenge
March 8, Beech Mountain
Hosted by Beech Mountain Ski Resort. (800) 438-2093.

Print Workshop
March 8, Winston-Salem
For 2nd graders and above accompanied by an adult at Reynolda House. $5. (336) 725-5325.

Organ Concert
March 15, Winston-Salem
Taylor Carpenter, North Carolina School of the Arts, will give a concert at Reynolda House. (336) 725-5325.

St. Patrick's Day
March 15, Boone
The Appalachian Cultural Museum celebrates the Irish saint. Admission $2. (704) 262-3117.

Decorative Arts Symposium
March 15-17, New Bern
Six speakers discuss the influence of the ancient world's arts and ideas on architecture and decorative arts of post-Revolutionary America. Registration, $225. Tryon Palace. (919) 328-6143.

Guitarfest
March 20-22, Boone
Appalachian State University's School of Music presents a weekend of music for guitar. (704) 262-3020.

Parade of Gems
March 20-22, Hickory
24th annual Unifour Gem & Mineral show hosted by the Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club. At the Shuford P.E. Complex/Moretz Gym on the campus of Lenoir Rhyne College. Dealer hours: 20th – 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; 21st – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; 22nd – 12:30 to 5 p.m.

Feathers, Flights and Kites
March 21, Wilmington
Children discover flying things of all shapes, sizes and materials. Concurrent programs for ages 4-7 and 8-10. Nonmembers, $6 per family; Members, $3 per family. At the Cape Fear Museum. (910) 341-7413.

Harness Horse Track
March 21, Pinehurst
Open house of the Historic Pinehurst Harness Horse track. Witness training of horses and talk to trainers. 8:30 to 11 a.m. (800) 644-8768.

Daffodils for the Southern Garden
March 21, Statesville
A seminar with Brent Heath of the Daffodil Mart, Virginia. (704) 872-1930.

Old-Time Square Dance
March 21, Denton
A traditional Appalachian-style dance featuring fiddler Molly Stouten and The Oak Tree Boys. Admission, $4, children 12 and under free. Denton Civic Center. (336) 475-9397.

NC Azalea Festival April 2-5. Live musical performances by Tim McGraw (adjacent), BR5-49 (right) and Cravin' Melon (below)

New Bern Homes & Garden Tour, March 27-28

Chamber Music

March 22, Winston-Salem
Wake Forest University and NC School of the Arts students in concert. $2. (336) 725-5325.

An Unconventional Lady

March 26, Elizabeth City
Barbara Snowden, Currituck County historian, tells the story of the Whalehead Hunt Club and its builder, Marie Knight, an avid hunter who was denied admittance to the all-male hunting clubs. Museum of the Albemarle. (919) 335-1453.

Blown Glass Demonstration

March 26, Hickory
A demonstration by artist Debbie Hoffheimer, at a meeting of the Catawba Valley Visual Art League in the Hickory Museum of Art Education Wing, 243 Third Ave. NE, at 7 p.m. (704) 328-8183.

Sandhills Little Theatre

March 27-29, Southern Pines
"The Boys Next Door," a play about four handicapped men living in a group home. Friday & Saturday 8 p.m.; Sunday 2:30 p.m. Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. (910) 692-3799.

Nucleodanza

March 27, Chapel Hill
A contemporary Argentinean dance troupe noted for its inventive approach to dance theatre. The group will also conduct three tango workshops in Chapel Hill. Memorial Hall, UNC. (919) 962-1449.

Home & Garden Tour

March 27-28, New Bern
Tickets $12.50 in advance and $15 on tour days include a Saturday tea and admission to eight 18th – 19th century homes, historic churches, private gardens, a museum and more. (919) 633-6448.

Gardener's Weekend

March 27-29, New Bern
Tryon Palace Gardens will be open free to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A plant sale including rare and historic plants will be held Friday and Saturday. Interior tours of Tryon Palace will be available at reduced rates to Historic Homes and Garden tours ticket holders. (800) 767-1560.

Kovack Spring Pottery

March 28-30, Seagrove
Limited edition pieces come with certificates of authenticity. Door prizes. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Monday, 12 to 5 p.m. Sunday. (336) 873-8727.

Daffodil Festival

March 28, Fremont
Entertainment, crafts, food, a children's alley and historic home tours. The Embers perform from 1-3:30 p.m. (919) 242-5151.

ECU Concerto Competition Winners

Mar. 28, Oriental
A concert presented by the Pamlico Musical Society. Pamlico County Civic & Cultural Center. Tickets $10. (919) 249-3079.

Annual Spring Festival

March 28, Morganton
Yard sale, bake sale, homemade food items. Auction at 1 p.m. Proceeds benefit church mission projects. At Oak Hill United Methodist Church, 2239, Hwy 181. (704) 438-4846.

NC Azalea Festival

April 2-5, Wilmington
51st annual. Featuring a ceremony aboard the Battleship North Carolina, parade 9:15 a.m. Saturday, live musical performances by BR5-49, Tim McGraw and Cravin' Melon and more. General Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will serve as grand parade marshal. (910) 763-0905.

Pepsi-Cola Bash

April 3-5, New Bern
100th anniversary celebration. Entertainment (Charlie Daniels Band on Saturday night), historical dramas, fireworks over the Trent River, a Saturday parade, remarks by dignitaries and special events downtown. (800) 437-5767.

Literary Festivals

April 3-5, Chapel Hill
First-ever North Carolina Literary Festival, a Celebration of Southern Writers, will honor 100 readers from each N.C. county, plus well-known writers and publishing displays. Also, the first conference of the Horton Society for the Study of African American Poetry, featuring Pulitzer Prize winners as headliners. At UNC-Chapel Hill. (919) 962-4434.

(*continued on page* 34)

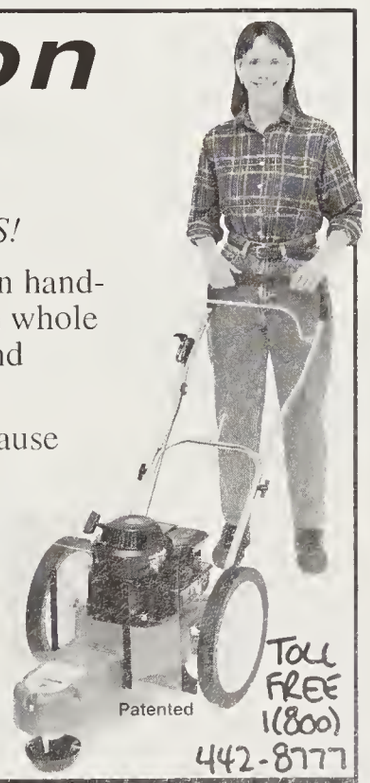
TRIMMER on WHEELS!

Rolls light as a feather on two BIG WHEELS!

• **TRIMS** far easier, better, more precisely than hand-held trimmers. Plus, **MOWS** everything from whole lawns (even wet!) to tough waist-high grass and weeds with ease!

• Rocks, roots, stumps, etc...do it no harm because the "DR®" has no steel blade to bend or dull.

• Perfect for *ALL* mowing and trimming around smaller properties, vacation homes, etc... and for finish-up mowing and trimming after riding mowers on larger parcels. A delight for *anyone* to use!



***So, WHY HASSLE** with hand-held trimmers or with small-wheels mowers?*

Please call or mail coupon at right TODAY for FREE DETAILS of the Revolutionary DR® TRIMMER/MOWER™!

MADE IN USA

EASY Electric Starting Models Available!

YES! Please rush **FREE DETAILS** of the Revolutionary **DR TRIMMER/MOWER™** including prices and specifications for Manual and Electric-Starting Models and "Off-Season" Savings now in effect.

Name_____ CAC

Address_____

City_____ State____ Zip____

To: **COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS**, Dept. 3578
Meigs Road, P.O. Box 25, Vergennes, VT 05491

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE STUDY COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF ELECTRIC SERVICE IN NORTH CAROLINA

REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the General Assembly of North Carolina has established the Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service in North Carolina. It consists of 23 members, including 12 members of the General Assembly; the Chief Executive Officers of Carolina Power & Light Company, Duke Energy Corporation, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, and ElectriCities; representatives of residential, commercial, and industrial electric utility customers, a member of the environmental community; and a representative of a nationwide electric power marketer.

The Study Commission will be examining how electric utility service is currently provided and examining whether changes should be made to the current structure. Under the terms of the legislation creating the Commission, it is required to (1) examine the cost, adequacy, availability, and pricing of electric rates and service in North Carolina and (2) determine whether legislation is necessary to assure an adequate and reliable source of electricity and economical, fair, and equitable rates for all consumers of electricity in North Carolina.

The initial question that will have to be answered is whether North Carolina should restructure the regulatory environment of its electric utility industry at this time. Many states are currently considering whether the generation, transmission, distribution, and other functions of electric utilities could be separated and whether generation and perhaps some of the other functions could be provided through a competitive market. Some states, most of which have higher average rates than those paid in North Carolina, have adopted plans that would allow retail electric customers to choose their suppliers of generation.

In the course of its study and in making its recommendations, the Commission is required to fully address a number of issues specified in its authorizing legislation. The Commission is requesting written comments addressing those issues, as well as responses to the following questions:

(1) Should North Carolina restructure the regulatory environment of its electric utility industry at this time?
(2) Could all residential, commercial and industrial customers choose their own supplier of generation and our current expectations of universal service, consumer protection and reliability be met?
(3) Could all types of customers benefit from retail competition, including small, rural residential customers? How could this be accomplished?
(4) Could public goals, such as fuel diversity, adequate reserve margins to prevent widespread outages, conservation and energy efficiency, renewable resources, environmental protection, and low income assistance be met through a restructured industry? How?
(5) If restructuring is pursued, what would need to be done to ensure that a competitive market develops, that discriminatory and anticompetitive conduct is prevented, and that only qualified suppliers are able to participate in the market?
(6) If the current North Carolina electric suppliers were unable to recover the costs of their existing plants and, as a result ended up with stranded investment, how should those costs be recovered and what limitations should be placed on such recoveries?
(7) Are the municipal electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives likely to be impacted differently than the investor-owned, private utilities? What is the best way to deal with any special issues raised by these utilities?
(8) If retail competition were pursued, should it be implemented for all customers at the same time? If a phase-in were required, in what order should customer classes be included?
(9) Should North Carolina wait until the Congress acts before enacting restructuring changes for its electric utilities?
(10) Are there questions that have not or cannot yet be answered before a determination can be made as to whether restructuring is in the public interest? What kinds of studies or experiments might be helpful in providing this information?
(11) If retail competition were found not to be feasible or achievable at this time, what changes could be made to increase customer choices, make the provision of electric service more efficient, or otherwise improve the provision of electric service?

Written comments may include matters not included in the Commission's authorizing legislation or in this notice, provided they are relevant to the issue of restructuring the regulatory environment of the electric utility industry.

The Study Commission requests interested persons to submit written comments no later than March 31, 1998. These written comments should be addressed to

Ms. Dee Bagley
Commission Clerk
Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service in North Carolina
North Carolina General Assembly
Box 24 Legislative Office Building
300 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-5925
(919) 733-5621

If you need a copy of the Commission's authorizing legislation, please write Ms. Bagley or telephone her at (919) 733-5621. If you have questions, please call or write the Commission Counsel.

Steven Rose or Carolyn Johnson
545 Legislative Office Building
300 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
(919) 733-2578

ISSUED BY ORDER OF
THE STUDY COMMISSION

This the 21st day of January,1998.

Senator David W. Hoyle
Representative Daniel F. McComas
Commission Co-chairs

LEGAL NOTICE / ADVERTISEMENT

Cat Show

April 4-5, Charlotte
Featuring Fancy Feast Cat and performances by the Friskies show team. Mystery author Lilian Jackson Braun will autograph copies of her latest book "The Cat Who Sang For the Birds" on Saturday only from 1-3 p.m. Charlotte Merchandise Mart. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.. Admission is $5, adults; $3, seniors; and $2, children 12 and under. (336) 282-3089.

Herb Sale

April 4, Matthews
Fragrant, culinary and medicinal herbs. Hard-to-find herbs such as blue vervain, black cohosh and St. Johns Wort. 15908 Deepwood Place. (704) 882-2669.

Ongoing

Birdhouses

March 4-29, Boone
Auction and exhibit in the Mazie Jones Gallery at the Jones House Community Center on King St. (704) 264-1789.

Photo Exhibit

Through March 29, Winston-Salem
Evicted Sentiments: Southern Documentary Photography presents photographers who have made significant contributions to the art of the Southeast region. Black-and-white photographs with a documentary approach. Featuring the work of Rob Amberg, Ralph Burns, Debbie Fleming and more. SECCA. (336) 725-1904.

Three Artists

Through March, Beaufort
The Mattie King Davis Art Gallery hosts the works of Nancy Merriner, Nancy Vaughan and Ann Hauman. Weavings and pen and ink drawings. (919) 728-5225.

Art Expo

March 30-April 17, Boone
Exhibition presented at the Catherine Smith Gallery on the campus of Appalachian State. Reception and awards presentation on April 3 at 5 p.m. (704) 262-4046.

Mary Cassatt Paintings

Through August 2, Winston-Salem
Six paintings by Mary Cassatt will be featured at Reynolda House, Museum of American Art. (336) 725-5325.

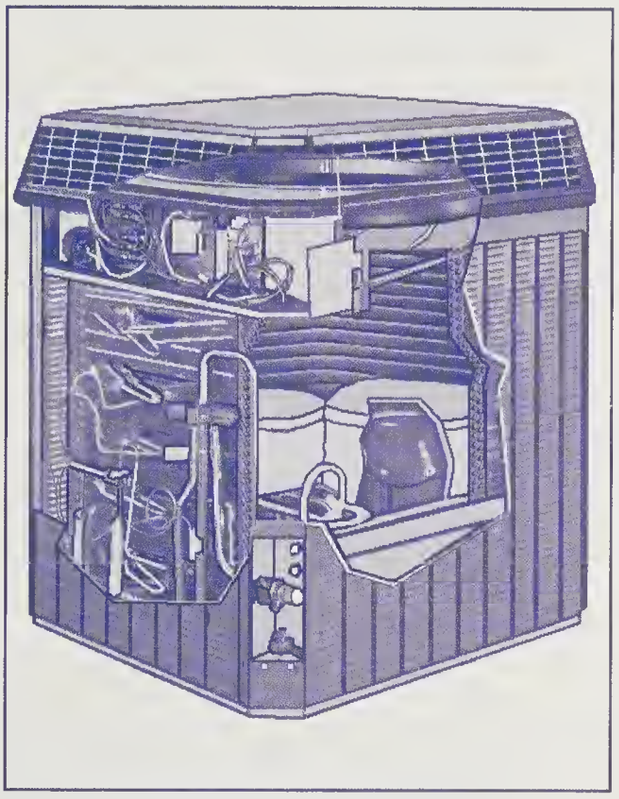
Deadlines:
May .....Mar. 25
June .....Apr. 24
July.....May 27

Send notices to Carolina Country
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611
email: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

Making Cents of Your Electric Bill

by James Dulley

Today's heat pumps are more comfortable, efficient



Today's heat pumps produce more comfortable heat at lower costs than older models. If you have an old heat pump, it may make good economic sense to replace it with a new one. There have been significant improvements in the comfort, efficiency and sound level of heat pumps. My own house has an eight-year-old heat pump. I know what it is like to step out of the shower on a winter morning just when the heat pump starts - Brrrrr!

Installing a new super-efficient heat pump can cut your heating bills by 30% to 40%. The best ones provide $3 worth of heat for each $1 of electricity used. Have your heat pump dealer do a computerized payback analysis for you.

A new heat pump will also yield similar savings when air-conditioning in the summer. It can provide extra cooling even on the hottest afternoons. This can also help to keep your long-term electricity rates reasonable because it reduces the expensive peak electricity demand for your electric cooperative.

New heat pump designs with two heating (or cooling in the summer) output levels provide the highest overall efficiency and the best comfort. The heat pump will run on its super-efficient, low-output level the majority of the time. When the weather gets really cold, it automatically kicks into the high-output mode to keep your house comfortably warm.

On the low-heat output level, which also means low electricity usage level, the heat pump runs for longer periods of time. This provides more even room temperatures with fewer chilly drafts. If you plan to install a good-quality central air cleaner, these types of systems are ideal.

A "smart" variable-speed indoor blower motor, usually a General Electric ICM motor, is recommended for all two-heat level models. When the blower first comes on, the speed ramps up slowly to minimize initial chilly drafts. These special blower motors also use about 60% less electricity. This can save another $100 per year for people with allergies who use continuous air circulation.

One two-output level design uses one small and one large compressor inside the standard outdoor unit. During mild weather, it starts on the smaller, low-output compressor. If this cannot keep your house adequately warm during severe weather, the small one automatically switches off and the large compressor starts. The same happens in the summer when it switches to the air-conditioning mode.

Another super-efficient two-output level design uses a single two-speed compressor. It has a special two-speed motor and electronic controls that determine the optimum speed for comfort and efficiency. This design is a little less expensive than the two-compressor design, but there are some slight performance compromises to accommodate the changing speeds.

If your budget only allows for a single-output level heat pump, you will still realize dramatically improved comfort and efficiency. A single-speed model with a reliable scroll compressor is a good choice. A scroll compressor has only a few moving parts and actually improves its efficiency over time. Also, look for sound-reducing features such as laminated steel/rubber compressor pads like the ones found on luxury automobiles.

For the ultimate comfort, have a "smart backup heat" control kit installed. Some are available that will fit on your existing heat pump indoor air handler. These kits have a computer brain that will turn on just enough backup electric heat to warm the register outlet air to two degrees above your skin temperature.

To compare efficiencies of various heat pumps, use the Heating Season Performance Factor (HSPF) for heating and Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) for cooling. These figures provide a true overall comparison. You may also see COP (coefficient of performance) ratings. These compare the heat pumps' steady-state operating efficiencies, but do not take into account the start-up and other normal variations.

Write for Update No. 446, a buyer's guide of the 15 most efficient and comfortable heat pumps, output levels, compressor types, efficiencies, blower motors and a savings/payback chart. Please include $2.00 and a business-size self-addressed stamped envelope and mail to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244

To instantly download the material or to read previous columns, see the Web site at http://www.dulley.com.

Copyright 1997 by James Dulley, a syndicated columnist for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

How to Reach the *Marketplace*

Space is available for display ads up to one third-page in size. The cost for advertising ranges from $170 to $1550 per ad, depending upon the number of times an ad is published.

Carolina Country
(800) 662-8835, ext. 3077

FREE HEARING CATALOG!
• 45 DAY TRIAL
• $199 & UP
BETTER HEARING
DEPT B34. Brookport, IL 62910
1-800-320-3300 EXT B34

WHOLESALE VEGETABLE PLANTS
Tomato, pepper, cabbage, eggplant, onion, kale, collard, sweet potato, broccoli, and cauliflower.
Hybrid and standard varieties.
All plants field grown.
Write for FREE catalogue.
EVANS PLANT COMPANY
Box 1649, Department 19, Tifton, GA 3179
Phone/Fax 1-912-382-1337

TAN at HOME!
For as Low as $20 a Month
CALL FOR FREE CATALOG!
WOLFF® Tanning Beds
HOME DELIVERY • BUY DIRECT & SAVE
Commercial Units Available
1•800•842•1324

STEEL DEPOT
METAL BUILDING SYSTEMS
"The Name To Look For In Quality Steel Buildings"
1-800-541-0302
From 20 X 40 up to 200 X Unlimited
Lowest Prices X Highest Quality
From $3,650 Up
Also Lowest Price on Mini- Storage

OAK HAVEN RESORT
LOG CABINS IN THE SMOKIES!
Conveniently located to all attractions:
PIGEON FORGE & GATLINBURG, TN
• Kitchens • Fireplaces
• Hot tubs • Large pool
Open Year Round
Call Toll Free 1-888-200-0625
For a Free Color Brochure
www.oakhavenresort.com

UNSOLD ORDERS
Singer School Model/Sew & Serge Sewing Machines

The Singer company ordered production of large quantities of their 1998 model school sewing machines, anticipating large orders. Due to current economic conditions, those orders were not received!

THEY MUST BE SOLD!

These special Heavy Duty School Machines are made with Metal Hooks for years of extended service. All Machines are now in Factory-sealed Cartons.

SINGER'S 25 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY IS INCLUDED.

SINGER
Manufacturing Quality since 1851

YOUR PRICE	SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE
$239.99	$569.00

COD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, MASTERCARD, VISA, DISCOVER, LAYAWAY WELCOME

SINGER
Held By
Branum's Sewing & Vacuum Center

WHAT IS A SEW & SERGE SEWING MACHINE?

#1--IT IS A SOPHISTICATED SEWING MACHINE...That does Buttonholes (any size) Invisible Blind Hems, ladder Stitching, monograms. Decorative Stitching, Corsetry Stitching, Ribbing, Double Seams, Zippers. Sews on Buttons, Rolled Hems, Darning, Applique, Leather Glove Stitch, Zig Zag, Basting, Blank Stitch, Pin Tucking, Quilting and much more. Just turn the dial to see magic.

#2--IT HAS A PROFESSIONAL SERGING STITCH...It allows you to sew the Seam and Serge the edge of the material in one operat With an optional cutter you can trim the exce material.

#3--THEY ARE DESIGNED TO SEW ALL FABRICS...Without adjustment, such as Levi Canvas, Upholstery, Nylon, Stretch Materials Silk Percale, Organdy AND...

...THEY EVEN SEW LEATHER!
Now you have it all in one machine!
THIS IS A FACTORY AUTHORIZED SALE...

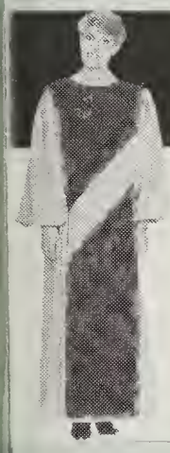
TO ORDER CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-462-1457

Includes all material, erection, freight & sales tax
NO HIDDEN EXTRAS!
• Steel Frames • Clear Spans
• Gables Enclosed • Galv. Roofing

42'x48'x12' $7,688.00
24'x36'x10' $3,898.00
Agri-Steel Structures
P.O. Box 1257 • Woodstock, GA 30188
1-800-359-8613

WOLFF TANNING BEDS

LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS
Gentry's RUSSELL SPRINGS, KY
1-800-467-8518



CHOIR ROBES
EXPERT TAILORING $28.95 UP

Finest Fabrics including Permanent Press and Wash & Wear. Superior Quality. Free Color Catalog and Fabric Swatches on Request. *Guaranteed Satisfaction.*
Toll Free 1-800-826-8612

REGENCY CAP & GOWN CO.
P.O. Box 8988-N
Jacksonville, Florida 32211

AEC BUILDINGS

It's our Building BLOWOUT SALE!!
You just can't beat these prices!

30 x 50 x 12.....$5,396
40 x 60 x 12.....$7,348
50 x 100 x 14.....$13,699
60 x 100 x 12.....$15,148

All 26 gauge, 20 yr. roof and walls
1-800-531-6575 M-F 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

SOUTHERN STEEL BUILDINGS

30x50x10	$5,106.00
50x100x12	$13,011.00
60x175x12	$23,615.00

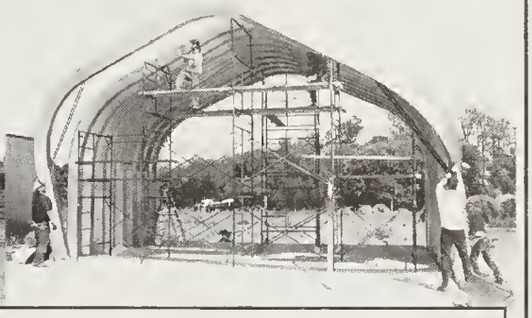
OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE – CALL FOR INFORMATION AND QUOTES
CALL 800-828-7232

BE A LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
Home study. Design lawns, courtyards, walkways, gardens, and shrubbery. **Free career literature.**
SEND OR CALL: 800-223-4542
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Phone _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
School of Landscape Design, Dept. GTC453
290 Ponce De Leon, 6065 Roswell Rd., Atlanta, Georgia 30328

Order NOW for Spring or Summer Delivery and Save Up To 45%

Machinery Storage Garages & Workshops

MANUFACTURER'S WINTER REBATE



- 3 Designs Available
- Galvanized or Galvalume
- Wide variety of clear span widths to choose from

Easy Do-It-Yourself Construction SAVES YOU EVEN MORE MONEY

LIMITED OFFER - Call TODAY
1-800-222-7885

Steel Building Superstore™
A Division Of Miracle Steel Structures, Inc.
FAX: 612-544-1835 CARC

Backyard Shops

Winter Inventory Sale

Save up to 60%

SAVE ON SELECT SIZES
25X34 • 30X46
40X56 • 50X116

- America's #1 Arch-Type Manufacturer
- 20 Year Warranty • Easy Financing Available
- Easy Do-It-Yourself Construction
- Free 16 Page Brochure

STEELMASTER®

Save Thousands Call Today **1 800 888-4[illegible]**

The Time To Buy Is Now!

POOLS

The Mariner

'97 Prices Still In Effect!

The Mariner 15' x 24'
Pool 19' x 31' O.D.

NOW ONLY
$888*
*Shipping & handling extra

All Pools Includes Sundeck, Fence & Filter

INSTALLATION OPTIONAL & EXTRA

Visit us at http://tropical-pools.com

E-Mail us at pools @ esn.net

Limited area - No Single Wide Trailers

*HOMEOWNERS ONLY-CALL NOW CALL TOLL FREE-**FREE HOME SURVEY***

1(800)-761-1064 Tropical Pools

LYRIC CHOIR GOWNS

"Professionally tailored gowns of lasting beauty."

FREE catalog and fabric samples.

Since 1955...

LYRIC
CHOIR GOWN CO.

P.O. Box 16954-RP
Jacksonville, FL 32245

CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-847-7977

Pole Buildings

STANDARD BUILDINGS

24 x 32 x 8 . . . . . $5,000
24 x 40 x 8 . . . . . $6,000
30 x 40 x 8 . . . . . $7,300
32 x 64 x 10 . . . . . $12,300
40 x 80 x 12 . . . . . $18,200

LOFT BARNS

24 x 32 x 8 . . . . . .$10,000
24 x 40x 8 . . . . . .$11,200
30 x 40 x 8 . . . . . .$14,200
32 x 64 x 8 . . . . . .$20,500

1-800-247-0241

Allwood Structures

Presenting...

The DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER

-- the amazing walk-behind brush cutter that --

- **CLEARS & MAINTAINS** meadows, pastures, roadsides, fences, wooded and rough non-lawn areas with ease. Mows over 1/2 acre per hour!
- **CUTS** tall grass, weeds, brush, brambles, sumac - *even tough saplings up to 1" thick!*
- **Plus CHOPS/MULCHES** most everything it cuts; leaves NO TANGLE of material to trip over or to pick up like hand-held brushcutters and sicklebar mowers.
- **POWERFUL** 8HP Briggs & Stratton engine; *optional Electric-Starting.* BIG 20" SELF-PROPELLED WHEELS roll through ditches, furrows, over bumps and logs with ease.
- ***Perfect for low-maintenance wildflower meadows***...European-style woodlots free of undergrowth...walking paths...or any area that you only want to mow once a month...or once a season!

So, WHY MESS with hand-held brush-cutters that are so dangerous, slow and tiring to use...OR with sicklebar mowers that shake unmercifully and leave a tangled mess?

TOLL FREE
1(800)442-8777

Please call TOLL FREE or mail coupon for FREE DETAILS about the Amazing DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER!

"I have been searching for years to find a reliable and cost-efficient way to keep our two-acre field clean and beautiful. The DR Field and Brush Mower is the answer!" - Richard A. Gustafson, Manchester, New Hampshire

YES! Please rush complete FREE DETAILS of the **DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER** including prices, specifications of Manual and ELECTRIC-STARTING Models, and "Off-Season" Savings now in effect.

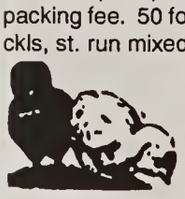
Name _____
Address _____ CAC
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

To: **COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS®**, Dept. 3578F
Meigs Road, P.O. Box 25, Vergennes, VT 05491

"HEAVY BREED" SPECIAL!

100 for $18.95 **FREE** *Poultry Catalog* **50 for $12.95**

Get big Reds, big Buff White Rocks & hug Silver Laced Black Giants. Super healtl easy-to-raise chicks for only $18.95 p hundred plus postage and 1 1/2 cents ea packing fee. 50 for $12.95. Our choice pullet ckls, st. run mixed together as available.



We ship C.O.D. **Send nan and address to us, telephone (717) 426-3411.**

RED TOP CHICK FARM
R.D. 1, Marletta, PA 17547

Call Now 717 426-3411

Premier Building Systems

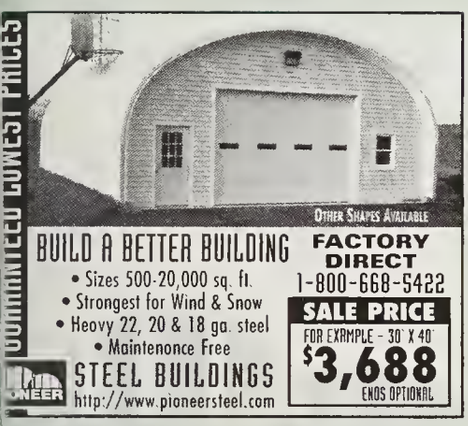
1-800-882-5150

PBS

The more you look, the better we look

30 x 40 x 10.....$4,995
40 x 75 x 10.....$8,594
50 x 100 x 12.....$13,543
60 x 100 x 12.....15,706
100 x 150 x 14 w/column...$34,897

All sizes available & mini-storage units, 26 ga., 20 year roof & walls.



BUILD A BETTER BUILDING
- Sizes 500-20,000 sq. ft.
- Strongest for Wind & Snow
- Heavy 22, 20 & 18 ga. steel
- Maintenance Free

STEEL BUILDINGS
http://www.pioneersteel.com

FACTORY DIRECT
1-800-668-5422

SALE PRICE
FOR EXAMPLE - 30' X 40'
$3,688
ENDS OPTIONAL

THE EXPANDABLE HOUSE

Just think, your new home comes with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, kitchen, dining and family room completely finished. *Plus* over 1000 **square feet of expandable unfinshed space built on your lot**. This sensational price also includes: **well and septic allowance**, finish grading, landscaping, and lot clean-up. For more information call one of our toll free numbers:

Building West of I-95 in the Carolinas

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Greensboro: 1-800-896-7922

Charlotte: 1-800-544-9139

American Family Homes®

FREE Poultry Catalog Showing

All Kinds of Poultry in color
Over 70 varieties. Baby Chicks, Exotic Rare Breeds, Fighting Games, Guineas, Turkeys, Bantams, Ducks. MasterCard, Visa & Discover accepted. Write or call today for your copy of this year's Big FREE Poultry Catalog in color.

MARTI POULTRY FARM
Box 27-35 Windsor, Missouri 65360
Telephone 660-647-3156

- **NO DOWNPAYMENT** FOR QUALIFIED LAND OWNERS
- **NO CLOSING COSTS**
- **NO CONSTRUCTION LOAN INTEREST**

- Stick built homes from low 60s to 125 and up.
- 10 year Home Buyers Warranty
- Numerous floor plans with many customized features

ALL FOR A FREE BROCHURE
1-800-957-9304

Madison Homebuilders
1721 East Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28203

Send a friend to a friend

Carolina Country gift subscriptions

Thanks to your electric cooperative, Carolina Country magazine comes to your house every month like a dependable, good friend.

You can send the same visitor to your friends and relatives.

$8 for 12 issues.
$16 for 24 issues.

Send us your gift list and payment, and we'll send a greeting card with your name on it to each person on your list.

Send this coupon and payment to

Carolina Country Subscriptions
PO Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

Please send a gift subscription for
___ 1 year ($8) ___ 2 years ($16) to

Name_____

Mailing Address_____

City_____ State_____ ZIP_____

Send greetings from

_____

The Original LOG CABIN HOMES

PO Drawer 1457
410 N. Pearl Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27802

Call Toll Free 24-Hours
1-800-56-CABIN

Phone: (919) 454-1500
Fax: (919) 454-1550
http://www.logcabinhomes.com
e-mail: info@logcabinhomes.com

To Receive The LCH Home Planning Guide for $9.95.

PLUS

Receive a Bonus Coupon to purchase our *Log Homes Coffee Table Book* for only $9.95 (Retails $29.95)

AND / OR

Purchase a Log Cabin Video for $4.95!
(Prices Include Shipping/Handling)

Ample supply of Western Red Cedar, White Pine and Cypress in stock. Free Custom Home Quotes.
©1998LCH

Complete Your Lifelong Dream With An Original Log Cabin Home!

CC3

4 WHEEL BIKE
DRIVES LIKE A CAR!
- Easy to Pedal
- Multi Speed
- Street Legal
- 1, 2 & 4 Seater

Free Literature
1-615-822-2737 Ext. 8381• www.rhoadesinfo.com
RHOADES CAR DEPT. 8381• 125 RHOADES LANE HENDERSONVILLE, TN 37075

America's Oldest & Largest Rare Breed Hatchery
Free Color Catalog
Over 140 varieties Baby Chicks, Bantams, Turkeys, Game Birds, Peacocks, Waterfowl, Guineas, plus Books, Equipment, Eggs, Incubators & Medicine.

1-800-456-3280
(24 hours/day)
http://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com
Murray McMurray Hatchery
C 130 Webster City
Iowa 50595-0458

KENTUCKY STEEL TRUSS BUILDINGS INC

YOUR SIZE AVAILABLE
1-606-745-0606

24' X 30' X 8'	$ 3,997
30' X 40' X 10'	$ 5,397
40' X 60' X 10'	$ 7,997
50' X 80' X 12'	$12,997
60' X 80' X 12'	$15,597
75' X 80' X 14'	$18,997

AMERICA'S BEST BUY

ALL STEEL FACTORY PICKUP PRICES *OPTIONS EXTRA
FARM + COMMERCIAL + RECREATION

MOBILE HOME ROOF PROBLEMS?

Our New Insulated Roof System For Mobile Homes Is The Permanent Solution.
LIFETIME WARRANTY

- Eliminates Leaks
- Eliminates Roof Noise
- No More Roof Coating
- Lowers Utility Bills
- One Foot Overhang
- Super Strong White Steel Roofing
- 2" Thick Polystyrene Insulation

Call toll free for free information package and prices

SOUTHERN BUILDERS
1-800-633-8969

"Installing Mobile Home Roofovers Since 1983"

"I make more profit from a 1/4 acre greenhouse...than from 100 acres of row crops!"

– Jeff Balduff, farmer and greenhouse vegetable grower

YOU CAN TOO! Begin a profitable alternative to conventional agriculture! Diversify your farm income! Enjoy a more dependable and consistent cash flow!

Farmers and land owners, just like yourself, are increasing their income dramatically growing high value specialty crops like tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, and herbs, year 'round, inside climate controlled, energy efficient greenhouses! With the use of soilless **PERLITE** growing methods, yields are increased and quality is superior, without the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides! You'll be producing out of season too, when prices are highest!

Request our **FREE Greenhouse Farming Information Pack** and you'll find out how to choose a properly designed greenhouse and growing system for controlled environment vegetable farming!

In addition, you'll learn about our **Grower Technical Assistance Program, Grower Training Workshops, Training Videos, Grower's Manual, Newsletters, Annual Conference,** and other resources valuable to greenhouse farmers!

FREE VIDEO OFFER!

Call or write today and we'll show you how to get your *FREE* information packed video,* **"Your Future in Hydroponics"!**
**$8.50 shipping/handling charge*

CropKing Inc. 5050 Greenwich Rd., Dept. NCM/NC, Seville, OH 44273-9413
Phone 330/769-2002 · Fax 330/769-2616

Mobile Home Roof Systems

Spring Is Here!
Get '97 Prices!
- *Permanent*
- *Insulated*
- *Lifetime Warranty*

BEST ROOF - BEST PRICE!

***FACT** - We have installed over 700 roof systems!*

***FACT** - We use only (1) piece material! (no seams)*

***FACT** - You deal direct! No salesman will call!*

1-800-782-4513

Comfort Seal Roof Systems™

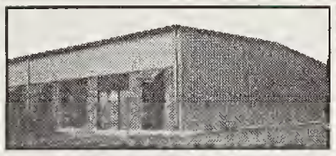
CP&L Finance Program

VISA

Ask about our $100 referral plan!

ARCO BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.

We will match any deal with Quality Steel!



ARCO Building Systems has been named by Metal Construction News as the 5th largest builder of metal buildings in the United States. We offer, **Direct to the Consumer**, the highest quality all steel buildings available, as well as the engineers to answer all your questions. With ARCO, you receive the most attractive, maintenance free building on the market with the service to match.

People Who Know Buy ARCO

40X60X12	$ 7,947
50X75X10	$10,172
60X100X12	$15,750
60X75X12	$12,263
50X100X12	$13,186
100X100X12 w/column	$22,977
100X150X14 w/column	$34,981

F.O.B. Plant - All Sizes Available
Codes may affect prices

1-800-241-8339

Visit us at our web site • www.arcosteel.com

ARCO BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.
3300 Holcomb Bridge Rd. Suite 201
Norcross, Georgia 30092

GOSPEL PIANISTS & ORGANISTS

Exciting Book & Cassette

"PLAY GOSPEL SONGS BY EAR!" Shows how to play and chord any hymn you've ever heard-entirely by ear! Find the right starting note, add chords, play in easy keys. Book $7.95. *Cassette* gives more explanations & illustrates how songs sound. Includes *chord chart* showing 84 chords. Cassette $7.95. Both $14.90 ppd. GUARANTEED! (Specify piano or organ).

DAVIDSON, 6727 C Melcalf, Shawnee Mission, KS 66204

13 Years In The Business

STEEL BUILDINGS

SONNY'S INC.

30' x 40' x 10'	$4,300
40' x 60' x 12'	$7,520
50' x 75' x 10'	$9,800
50' x 100' x 12'	$12,600
60' x 100'x 12'	$15,140
100' x 100' x 14'(MI)	$23,400

ALL SIZES AVAILABLE - WE WILL MATCH ANY PRICE
THE WAY TO BUILD TODAY
1-800-524-3939

FREE Ginkgo Biloba!

~~$2.95~~ Value Yours FREE!

Ginkgo Biloba Gives Nutritional Support For:

• Mental Alertness • Higher Vitality Levels • Circulatory and Blood Vessel Health! Make every day a triumph over age with a 14 day supply of Ginkgo Biloba. (Send $1.00 to cover postage and handling.)

Feel More Alive Than You've Felt in Years!

Send to: Indiana Botanic Gardens, Inc.
P.O. Box 5 Dept. CCOW
Hammond, IN 46325

Enclosed is ❑ check ❑ money order for $1.00 to help cover postage and handling. Please rush me:
14 Day Supply of 30 mg. Ginkgo Biloba.

Sorry No Canadian Orders Accepted. Only One Per Family Will Be Accepted. Please Print

Name

Address Apt. No.

City State Zip

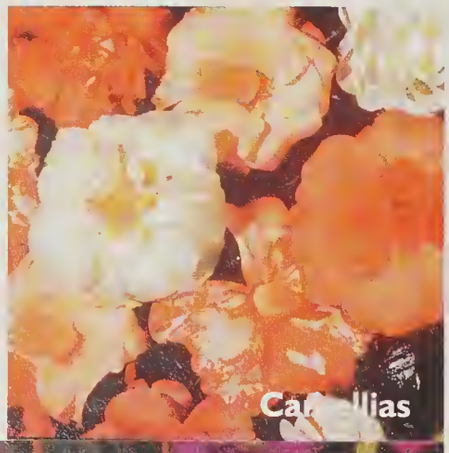
Offer Expires 6/1/98

GC 35

Hank's Gardening Guide

by Hank Smith

Spring unfurls in March with displays of floral color. Our urge to plant is exceeded only by the great variety of plant materials available. Time's beginning to run out for the planting of bare-root, container-grown and balled and burlapped plants. Get them in the ground soon before tender growth begins to show. This gives plants ample time to establish effective root systems before the growth stresses brought on by the heat of summer.



Camellias

Clematis

Ginkgo biloba

Ginkgo appeared on earth 230 million years ago. Those studying plant genetics believe the Ginkgo is one of the few plants that remains just as it appeared in the beginning. Ginkgo was introduced to England and America about 200 years ago, an import from China. An interesting addition to the landscape, Ginkgo is planted extensively in Washington, D.C. The tree grows to 125-feet in height. One of the Ginko's distinctive features is that in autumn all leaves shed at one time – making for easy lawn raking. Because of the leaf margin and pattern of the leaves, it is commonly called Maidenhair tree. Leaves resemble enlarged specimens of Maidenhair fern leaflets. Only male trees should be planted, as female trees bear a foul smelling fruit. Medical researchers recently have delved into a study of the use of the leaves and fruit to treat such ailments as circulatory problems, hearing problems, dementia, and oxygen deprivation in humans.

Soil preparation

Prepare soil now for warm season plants to be set out later. Spread a 2-to 4-inch layer of compost or well-rotted manure and/or old sawdust over the planting bed and mix thoroughly with the soil to a depth of one foot. As the soil is mixed, add 1/2 to 1 cup complete fertilizer for each 10-square-foot area.

Lawns

If fallen leaves continue to cover your lawn, remove them to protect grass beneath the leaves. Tender grass can be killed by problems associated with a cover of fallen leaves including too much shade and moisture, insects and diseases.

Plant feeding

Use a complete fertilizer on practically all plants that are part of the permanent landscape. Feed camellias and azaleas acid fertilizer as they go out of bloom. Continue to feed monthly until hot weather arrives. Garden centers carry a special acid-forming fertilizer for azaleas and camellias.

Clematis likes alkaline soil

Although the majority of woody ornamental plants prefer to grow in slightly acid soil, clematis vines prefer neutral soil. This type of clematis seldom occurs in most areas of the South. Apply a cupful of agricultural lime to the soil surface around an established clematis vine every three to five years. Work the lime lightly into the soil and water well. Early spring is a good time to apply the lime.

Rose pruning

The major pruning of bush-type roses should be completed soon after the last killing frost. Now is a good time to tend to this chore in most areas of the Carolinas. Prune to control the size of plants. Remove dead and weak canes to encourage healthy new growth. Use sharp, clean shears. Cut back tips of all canes to give you a good overall view of the bush form, then cut away diseased and/or injured wood and canes that overlap or are misplaced in other ways. Shorten remaining canes to within 12- to 18-inches of the soil line. The vigor in growth of each variety in your area will dictate the most desirable height at which to prune.

Spring pruning

When they have finished flowering, prune deciduous flowering trees and shrubs. For those with many stems, as flowering quince and forsythia, cut back about a third of the older stems all the way to the ground. Shorten branches of other types to give a natural look. If possible, avoid a formal boxed or balled appearance. An exception would be a formal planting at a contemporary home with severe architecture. A clump of nandinas should be pruned by removing several of the older and taller stems, diverting growth energy to new tender growth at the base which helps develop a clump which is full to the ground.

Vegetables

Plant seeds of carrots, beets, chard, lettuce, onions, kale, spinach and tumips. Wait until mid-April after soil warms up before planting seedlings of peppers, eggplant, and tomatoes.

Pansy color

Although pansies are usually planted in autumn for cool season enjoyment, they still can be set out early this month for continuous color until hot weather arrives. Set plants in rich, moist soil where they will receive about six hours of full sunlight each day to assure abundant blooms. Keep soil surface mulched for moisture retention. Fertilize moderately about every two weeks for good growth and flower production. As blooms fade, remove from plants to prevent energy from converting to seed formation rather than more flowers.

Advertisement

Are you over 55?

"It's All Free for Seniors"

by Murry L. Broach - Staff Writer

Washington DC (Special) Are you over 55... or have a loved one who is? Then you'd better take a close look at this!

Every year Uncle Sam gives away hundreds of millions of dollars in cash, goods, and services to people just like you.

Better yet, most of these goodies are available to you regardless of your income or assets!

All this free stuff is one of America's best kept secrets... simply because the government doesn't advertise that it's available.

Now, an amazing new book reveals thousands of sources of fabulous freebies which are yours for the asking. Entitled "Free for Seniors", you'll learn all about such goodies as how you can:

► Get free prescription drugs. (This one alone could save you thousands of dollars!)
► Get free dental care... for yourself AND for your grandkids.
► Get up to $800 for food.
► Free legal help.
► How to get some help in paying your rent, wherever you live.
► How to get up to $15,000 free money to spruce up your home!
► Here's where to get $1,800 to keep you warm this winter.
► Here's how to get help in paying your electric bill.
► Access the very best research on our planet on how you can live longer.
► Are you becoming more forgetful? Here's valuable free information you should get now.
► Stop high blood pressure and cholesterol worries from ruling your life.
► Free help if you have arthritis of any type.
► Incontinence is not inevitable. These free facts could help you.
► Free eye treatment.
► Osteoporosis: Learn about the causes, risk factors and new treatments.
► Depression: Being down in the dumps is common, but it doesn't have to be a normal part of growing old.
► Free medical care from some of the very best doctors in the world for Alzheimer's, cataracts, or heart disease.
► New Cancer Cure? Maybe! Here's how to find out what's known about it to this point.
► Promising new developments for prostate cancer.
► Get paid $100 a day plus expenses to travel overseas!
► How to get your own VIP tour of the White House without waiting in line with everyone else.
► Up to $5,000 free to help you pay your bills.
► Free and confidential help with your sex life.
► Impotence? Get confidential help... Free therapies, treatments, implants, and much more.
► Hot Flashes? This new research could help you now!
► Find out if a medicine you are taking could be affecting your sex life.
► Enjoy visiting our National Parks? Here's how you can get paid to spend your summers there.
► How you could travel the world... all at government expense.
► How to get $7 off your phone bill each month.

There's more! Much, much more, and "Free for Seniors" comes with a solid, no-nonsense guarantee. Send for your copy today and examine it at your leisure. Unless it makes or saves you AT LEAST ten times its cost, simply return it for a full refund within 90 days.

Where else can you get an investment which guarantees a ten-to-one return?

It's easy to get "Free for Seniors". All you have to do is send your name and address along with a check or money-order for only $12.95 plus $2 postage and handling (total of 14.95) to:

FREE FOR SENIORS
Dept. FS876
718 - 12th St. N.W., Box 24500
Canton, Ohio 44701

You may charge to your VISA or MasterCard by including your card number, expiration date, and signature. For even faster service, have your credit card handy and call toll-free 1-800-772-7285, Ext. FS876.

Want to save more? Do a favor for a relative or friend and order 2 books for only $20 postpaid.

Have you been putting off a trip across the country to visit a loved one due to the high cost of flying? Or, maybe you'd like to vacation in some romantic foreign city?

Now you can!

Call or send for "Free for Seniors" right away and you'll also get a Free Bonus which could save you thousands of dollars on airline tickets. It's a new special report entitled, *"How You Can Fly Anywhere Free...* or Almost Free."

These free reports are limited in quantity and will be sent on a first come, first served basis. You must respond right now to be sure of getting your copy.

Why not do it right now while you're thinking of it?

©1997 TCO FS0135S

http://www.trescoinc.com

FREE WIG CATALOG!

America's favorite wigs at Discount Prices! All sizes, styles and colors. Natural-looking, cool, light and comfortable. Guaranteed.

Send for FREE WIG Catalog!

PLEASE PRINT Name in Full

P.O. Box or Street Address

City Apt Number

State Zip Code

Do you ever wear wigs? ❑ Yes ❑ No

PAULA YOUNG® **Dept. 1918,** Box 246 S. Easton, MA 02375

"America's Largest Wig Company"

Copyright© 1998, Paula Young®

Diahann Carroll™ WIGS! Exclusively Available from ESPECIALLY YOURS®

A Catalog of Wigs & Fashion Accessories

Mail for your **FREE Catalog!**

PLEASE PRINT Name in Full

P.O. Box or Street Address

City Apt Number

State Zip Code

Do you ever wear wigs? ❑ Yes ❑ No

ESPECIALLY YOURS

Dept. B518, P.O. Box 105, S. Easton, MA

Copyright© 1998, Especially Yours

by Owen Bishop

It's Called *Dating*, Dad!

"It's called *dating*, Dad!"

The comment came from my daughter Ellen, the Teenager-in-Residence at our house, who spoke softly but clearly showed her impatience with me. Her tone had an edge of weariness and her raised eyebrows added their own exclamation point.

She was setting her "dorky" father straight in reference to a social engagement she'd scheduled with a young man who's a high school classmate.

I had expressed my frustration about how to describe the encounter because I'm thoroughly confused by much of today's Teen Talk. I never dreamed that this coo-ul 14-year-old might call it *dating*!

After all, that's what her parents called it when they would go to a movie together on a Saturday night before they were married — back in the Ancient Olden Days, when theaters could show only one movie at a time. That, I thought, was reason enough to avoid using the expression in regard to Ellen's plan for visiting a Multiplex Mecca with her Main Man.

Besides, given my confusion about Teen Talk, I thought the term *dating* might no longer apply to such an occasion. If it were used at all, I expected it would have an entirely new meaning.

Ellen had already been officially "going out" with a succession of other partners before Main Man arrived on the scene. Yet, if she and these partners were to "go out" together, they'd almost always do so in group outings with other teens. As far as I could see, these virtual pairings never seemed to translate into real life liaisons.

Even so, she and her network of buddies obviously considered any "going out" relationship to be Topic A in their daily telephone marathons. That point was driven home for me when she and the Main Man were spending a lot of time chatting by phone before he achieved that lofty status.

Ellen and her phone friends offered this assessment of the situation: The boy was seriously interested in "going out" with Ellen but "he just wasn't ready for a relationship yet!"

All this left me tearing my thinning hair and wondering aloud: If "going out" is considered a relationship when the partners never actually "go out" together as a twosome, what's the proper term for it when they begin "going out" for real?

My wife, who is Ellen's soul mate in many ways, was perplexed as well. But she seemed to see it as a phase that would soon pass.

When I'd complain to Ellen about my confusion, she was absolutely no help, usually rolling those blue eyes at me as she spoke on the ever-present phone.

"My Dad's being dorky again," she'd say to the friend on the other end of the line, clearly seeking sympathy.

I decided to raise the question with Ellen's 21-year-old sister, Melissa, thinking she might be able to bridge the gap between Dorky Dad and the Teen Queen.

Melissa, who is a junior at Meredith College, grinned broadly when I talked to her about it.

"What do the college girls call it when they have relationships with guys and actually go out with them?" I asked.

"They call it 'going out,' too," she said.

She never mentioned the term *dating*, either!

Later, I wondered if her view of the situation might be colored by her emotions because of her close relationship with her sister. That's when I realized that she wasn't the only one. It was true for Mom and Dad as well.

Ellen may look like a Gap Girl to the rest of the world, but we still see her as the baby of the family. And we're just not ready for her to be *dating*, no matter what you call it.

usiness Opportunities

ARN EXTRA INCOME! ssemble craft products at home r best companies. Call Now: -800-377-6000 ext. 8825.

EW! GROW EXPENSIVE LANTS, 2,000% PROFIT, FREE formation, Growbiz, Box 306-C3, Seminary, MS 39479.

30,000 YEARLY INCOME POSSI-LE! Honest homeworkers need-d immediately for assembly, erical and mail processing jobs! r Job Application Write: harlin, Box 7158-P, lbuquerque, NM 87194

/ON INCOME/DISCOUNTS. No oor to door – Independent Rep. 800-411-6323.

Vanted

WNER FINANCED ortgage/Trust Notes. Cash paid w! Heritage 1-800-843-2790.

lelp Wanted

SSEMBLE CRAFT PRODUCTS at me! Great Extra Income Idea! ll: 1-800-377-6000, Ext. 8820.

/ON – EARN $15.00 PLUS PER OUR Selling From Home! 800-566-8055.

KTRA INCOME! Assemble sim-e craft products at home. ation's largest selection of me – work program guaran-ed! Call Now: (813) 857-2000 t. Y-500.

00 HOME JOB OPPORTUNITIES. ork-At-Home Sourcebook. Send lf-addressed stamped envelope : RLMC, P. O. Box 5236, nehurst, NC 28374.

or Sale

ALL SAWMILL EXCHANGE TO JY/SELL used portable sawmills /ood-Mizer, TimberKing, etc.). so, "Portable Sawmill cyclopedia". 1-800-459-2148, tp://www.sawmill-change.com.

VE 75% ON WORKWEAR! iform rental returns. Excellent ndition. Laundered, Durable, ry Comfortable. Free Brochure 300-909-9025.

D TIMEY APPLE TREES. Over 0 Varieties. Limbertwigs, rse, Red June. Route 1, Box 2A, Pinnacle, NC 27043.

SEIZED CARS From $175. Porsches, Cadillacs, Chevys, BMW's, Corvettes. Also Jeeps, 4WD's. Your Area. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext. A-14183 for current listings.

TO BUY OR SELL RAWLEIGH PRODUCTS, Health Products, Old Fashioned Home Remedies. Over 100 Year Old Company. 1-800-442-7025 Leave Name/Address/Phone #.

HOMES AS LOW AS $4,000! 1-5 bdrm. Local government & bank repossessions. HUD's, VA's, Foreclosures. Call Toll-Free 1-800-522-2730 ext. 1072.

CARS FOR $100? Computer, Televisions, Real Estate, Antiques & more. Auctioned locally! Call Toll Free 1-800-522-2730 x 2798.

ALMOST TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING but I have a way for pennies a day to keep your house smelling spring fresh year round for just $2.00 and a S.A.S.E. For information please send to J.I. Smith, P.O. Box 1048, Kenansville, NC 28349 Code #1.

Insurance

LOW COST LIFE INSURANCE! Apply by telephone. Royce Kersey, 1-800-252-6110.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE. Doctor's co-pay. Drug card. Royce Kersey, 1-800-252-6110.

Work Clothes

GOOD, CLEAN RENTAL-TYPE WORK CLOTHES. 6 pants & 6 shirts to match $29.95. Lined Work Jackets $9.95. Satisfaction Guaranteed! Send sizes with check or money order plus $5.00 S&H to: Walt's Wholesale Co., PO Box 208-E, Darlington, SC 29532 or MC/Visa orders 1-800-233-1853.

Specialty Foods

WATKINS PRODUCTS. ENHANCING LIVES SINCE 1868. Rated among top 10 North American home-based businesses. No quotas. Start under $30. Free information, money-saving catalog. Independent Representatives. 1-888-556-7235

Health

?? DIABETIC?? C&A Medical Diabetic Insurance Billing Specialists. Medicare/Private. All brands strips. Call toll-free 1-888-762-2836. Insurance will probably reimburse for your testing supplies. Let us help you keep more of your money! Supplies shipped to your doorstep. We will bill your insurance and they will pay us! Easy as 1-888-762-2836!

20/20 WITHOUT GLASSES! Safe, rapid, non-surgical, permanent restoration 6-8 weeks. Airline pilot developed, Doctor approved. Free information by mail: (800) 422-7320 ext. 135, (406) 961-5570, Fax (406) 961-5577, http://www.vision-freedom.com. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Real Estate

GOV'T FORECLOSED homes from pennies on $1.00. Delinquent Tax, Repo's. REO's Your Area. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext. H-14183 for current listings.

ROOM FOR ELBOWS, Garden, Pets, Fishing Pond. Rolling mature woodland with creek, paved frontage, perks. No restrictive covenants. Half way between Cary and S. Pines off US#1/15-501 in S.W. Lee County. (919) 774-6886.

Vacation Rental/Sales

MYRTLE BEACH PENTHOUSE, 18th FL, Huge 3 BR, 2-1/2 BA Master Suite, Beautifully Appointed. (336) 768-1993 Seasonal Rates. Unique Properties of the Triad. Broker/owner.

BED, BREAKFAST, PLUS INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN RETREAT. Stress reducer. Awesome views. A Quiet Place, 1585 Jones Road, Mill Spring, NC 28756. (704) 625-1366.

Financial

MONEY AVAILABLE NOW! Let the Government Finance Your Business Idea. Satisfaction Guaranteed. 1-800-226-3601, ext. BF8820.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS - Need Financial Help!? Let Me Help – Debt Consolidation, Bankruptcy, Foreclosures, Refinancing, etc! Call "Jo" at 1-800-538-5388 (ID# 128097).

NEED CASH? We buy owner financed mortgages, structured settlements, term life insurance. (910) 629-7909.

Books/Publications

DITCHBANK ROADS CUISINE Mini-Cookbook. 4"x6", illustrated. Send $5.95 ea., or 2/$10.00 to: Barb's, Dept. CC, 605 Dollard Town Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534.

Pets/Animals

MINIATURE HORSES! Wonderful little pets, lucrative investments for Show, Breeding, Pleasure. Information/Video/Directions to Farm. Call (910) 573-2222.

Services

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL GIFT that will be treasured forever! Make your memories come to life by putting your old home movies, photos, or slides on videotape. Call for details, mention this ad for discount. 1-888-609-9778.

Antiques

CAROUSEL ANTIQUES, 238 SW Main Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27802. Bus. (919) 442-5919, Res. (919) 446-3540.

Phone-Etics

Nothing in Common

Math Words

MARCH / A = HARE

12506 / 2 = 6253

Corner's Corner Answer

Cheese, please

North Carolina farms raise about 78,000 head of dairy cattle. For more recipes and information about dairy products, contact the National Dairy Council at (800) 426-8271.

Recipe Cheesy Cole Slaw

2 cups each of red and green cabbage, thinly sliced
1 cup red or green apple, cubed, unpeeled
6 ounces Meunster cheese, cubed
3/4 cup fat-free honey-dijon salad dressing

Combine cabbage, apple and cheese in bowl. Pour dressing over and toss. Refrigerate 1-2 hours for flavor to blend. Makes 6-8 servings.

Serving size: 3/4 cup. Calories per serving: 152. Fat: 7 gm. Carbohydrate: 14 gm. Protein: 6 gm. Calcium: 195 mg.

Recipe Blue Cheese and Onion Focaccia

2 cups onions, sliced
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 teaspoon dried sage leaves
1 Italian flat bread *(8 to 10-inch Focaccia bread)*
1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
2 to 3 ounces blue cheese, crumbled

Cook onions in butter over low heat in medium skillet until very tender and lightly browned; stir in sage. Arrange onions on bread; sprinkle with tomatoes and cheese. Bake at 350 degrees until bread is hot and cheese is melted, about 15 minutes. Cut in wedges. Makes 8 servings.

Serving size: one wedge. Calories per serving: 227. Fat: 8 gm. Carbohydrate: 31 gm. Protein: 10 gm. Calcium: 116 mg.

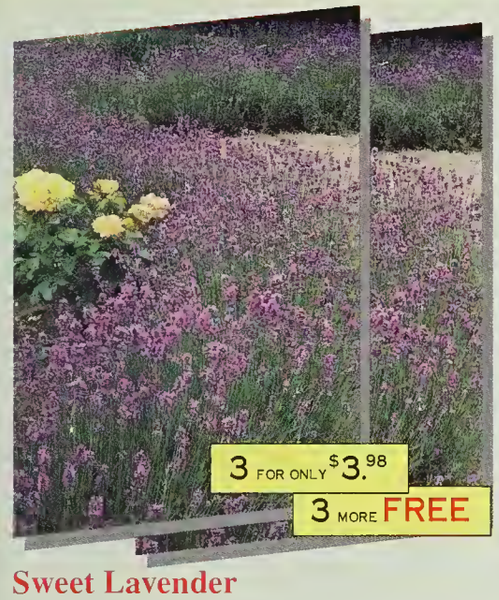
Recipe Big Bites

12 ounces red potatoes, peeled, cooked, cut into half-inch pieces
2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Swiss cheese
1/3 cup chopped red pepper
1/3 cup chopped green pepper
1 cup mayonnaise or light mayonnaise
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
24 slices baked ham or turkey
Finely chopped parsley

Combine potatoes, Swiss cheese, and red and green peppers in medium bowl; stir in mayonnaise, salt and pepper. Spoon 2 generous tablespoons potato salad on each ham or turkey slice and roll into a cornucopia (or funnel) shape; sprinkle with parsley. The flavor of the cheese in the potato salad is best when eaten at room temperature, so remove from the refrigerator a half-hour in advance to serving time.
Makes about 2 dozen.

Buy One - Get One FREE!

Our Best Values . . . All Products Guaranteed 100%!



Sweet Lavender

Sweet Lavender is one of the most fragrant — and versatile — flowers in the world. But its heavenly scent is only half of the beautiful story! You also get striking royal purple blossoms and deep green foliage all in one hardy, fast-growing plant. #2 grades. **#03046 3/$3.98**

"Wall of China" Hedge

This handsome hedge is fast growing, hardy and beautiful. "Wall of China" withstands snow, ice, disease and sub-zero temperatures. Grows up to 3' the first year and gets thicker with every pruning. Excellent as a natural fence or windbreak. Bare root. *Not available in CA and OR.* **#04853 10/$9.98**

Stargazer Lily

Stargazer is one of the most popular Lilies in the world and the only upward-facing variety. It makes an outstanding garden accent and cut flower. Highly fragrant and easy to grow. 10-12cm. **#03129 3/$3.98**

Snowball Bush

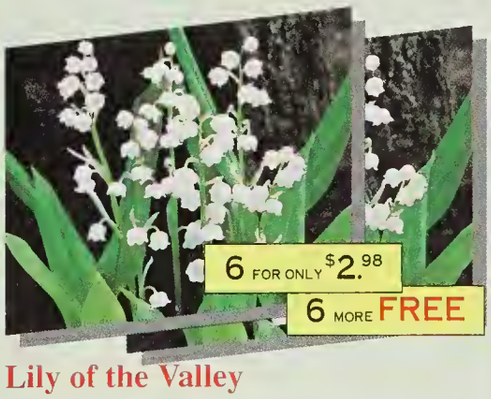
Now you can have "snowballs" in your yard all season long! Snowball Bush bursts forth each spring with huge, snowball-shaped clusters of sparkling white flowers, each measuring up to 6" in diameter. Plant a single bush in your yard as a focal point or use several to create a floral hedge. Bare root. *Not Available in AZ.* **#03442 1/$2.98**

Canterbury Bells

Ring in summer with a rainbow of stunning color. These large, deep-cupped, pastel flowers resemble church bells! Big clusters of blooms cover sturdy stems up to 3' tall for a stunning garden showpiece. 1-year-old. **#03624 3/$3.98**

Black-eyed Susans

Highly prized for its clouds of sunny, daisy-like blooms and its fast-growing, easy care nature. Black-eyed Susan is the perfect companion to our other Daisy varieties. Just plant in well-drained soil and a sunny to partly shady spot. Grows 2-3' tall and blooms profusely starting in mid-summer. 1-1/2" pot. **#00349 3/$3.98**



Lily of the Valley

Low-growing swords of bright green spread quickly under the shade of your house, shrubs or trees. In late spring, it bursts into a chorus of tiny, sweet-smelling, white, bell-shaped flowers. Makes a beautiful accent in bouquets. 1-year-old. **#02741 6/$2.98**

S98

MICHIGAN BULB CO.
1950 Waldorf N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49550

YES! Please send me the products indicated below for planting this spring. I understand that for each item I order, I will receive a duplicate order FREE as explained in this special Buy One-Get One Free offer.

MISS
MS.
MR.
MRS. _____ *Please Print* PB 6113 F 8

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Remember: For every product you order below, we'll send you a duplicate order FREE OF CHARGE! (No dealers please.)

HOW MANY	ITEM #	ITEM	COST

☐ Payment enclosed.
☐ Bill on my credit card below.
☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA
☐ Amer. Express ☐ Discover/NOVUS

Subtotal $
Postage & handling 4.95
SALES TAX. MI add 6% TN add 8.25% MO add 4.225%
Grand Total $

Credit Card #

FREE Planting Guide Included With

M

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Buy One - Get One FREE!

Our Best Values . . . All Products Guaranteed 100%!

This is one offer you won't want to miss! For a limited time only, you can order any of these garden products and get a second order of the same item FREE! So when you order 12 Creeping Phlox for $4.98, you get 12 more Creeping Phlox FREE! Order 10 Hardy Perennial Lilies for $8.98 and get 10 more Hardy Perennial Lilies FREE! Try any of the products on these two pages and we'll double your order FREE!

Are we crazy? Not at all. We're so sure you'll be thrilled with your order and come back for more that we're willing to let our best-sellers go at rock bottom prices. Plus, everything you order is GUARANTEED FOR LIFE! This offer is available only for a limited time . . . so HURRY!

Hardy Perennial Lilies

Hardy Perennial Lilies are surprisingly hardy and dependable. They return every year without lifting or replanting, producing bigger clumps and more flowers. They're great for naturalizing, too. Tall, elegant and easy to grow in full sun to partial shade. Bloom all summer long! 10-12cm. **#05033 10/$8.98**

Creeping Phlox

Enjoy a rainbow of spring color with this gorgeous perennial groundcover. Creeping Phlox blankets your landscape with dense, evergreen foliage and bright red, pink, white or lavender blooms. Get 24 plants for the price of 12 when you order now. 1-year-old plants. **#02717 12/$4.98**

Hybrid Poplar

This fast-growing "wonder tree" grows 4-6' every year and reaches 20-30' in just 5 years! Hybrid Poplars offer shade, wind protection and a super-fast source of firewood. And now you can buy 3 and get 3 more FREE! You can't lose! 2-3' trees grow up to 75' tall. **#03558 3/$7.98**

Shasta Daisy

A classic beauty in every way, Shasta Daisy produces big, showy flowers of snowy white with sunny centers of warm yellow. Beautiful in beds and borders, Shasta Daisy is a lovely, long-lasting cut flower, too. When you need a garden standout that thrives with little effort, it just has to be Shasta! 2-3' tall. **#03038 3/$3.98**

Creeping Myrtle

Creeping Myrtle boasts blue flowers floating on a carpet of green foliage. This colorful, popular ground cover flourishes in sun or shade – perfect for your yard's trouble spots! Twenty plants cover 40 square feet. So when you buy 20, you'll get 20 FREE – enough to cover 80 square feet! 1-year-old plants. **#02758 20/$4.98**

Purple Coneflower

Colorful butterflies love these long-blooming daisy-like flowers with their purple petals and deep maroon centers. Ideal in the garden or for naturalizing! Purple Coneflower is easy to grow, fighting off heat and drought. Just plant in any sunny, well-drained spot and watch it shoot up 2-3' tall with little care. **#08912 3/$3.98**

Mixed Carnations

Vibrant colors and a spicy scent make these frilly, ruffled blooms irresistible in your garden and in cut-flower arrangements. And with this limited-time offer, you get 5 FREE plants for every 5 you order. If you've never grown Carnations, this is your chance! 1-year-old plants. **#02626 5/$2.98**

Hanging Strawberry Plant and Basket

Now you can grow Strawberries anywhere there's sun and a basket hook! You get three vigorous plants in their own hanging basket. 1-year-old. **#03251 1/$2.98**

More Great Bargains On Other Side!